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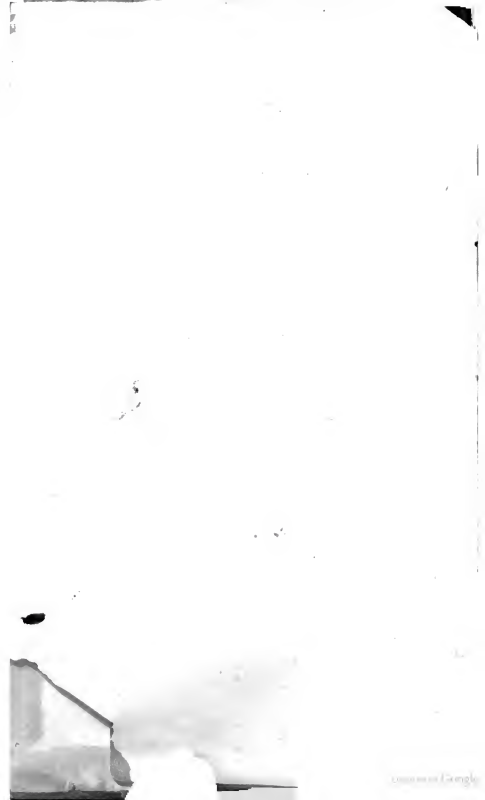
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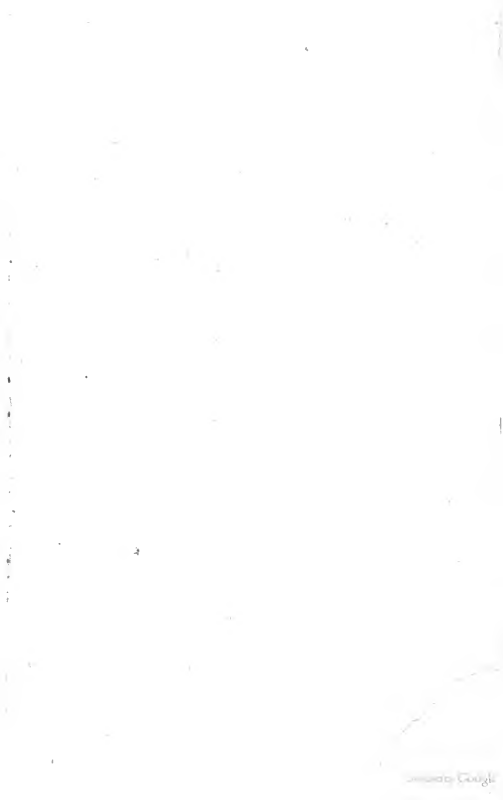
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M. Joseph Lott.

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THE IDLER

IN

ITALY.

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THE

IDLER IN ITALY.



August 25th, 1822.—AND so, I am leaving my home—my happy home!—There is something sad in the thought. I looked often at the pictures, and the various objects of use and decoration in the apartments, with a sort of melancholy feeling, that I anticipated not I should experience on undertaking a pleasurable tour—a tour I have so long desired to make. Yet now, that the moment of departure is nearly arrived, I almost wish I was not going. Yes, the quitting home for an indefinite period makes one thoughtful. What changes, what dangers may come before I sleep again beneath its roof! Perhaps, I may never—but I must not give way to such sad forebodings. The taking leave of friends is painful, even those whose society afforded little pleasure assume a new interest in the moment of parting. We remember only their good qualities; but, perhaps, this oblivion of their defects proceeds from the anticipated release from their consequences. This it is that makes us often part from our friends with more kindness than we feel in meeting them.

DOVER—Would be more agreeable, were it not associated in my mind with lurching steam-packets and qualmy passengers; to-morrow I shall be exposed to a contact with both, which, though of short duration, is, nevertheless, anything but pleasurable. Misery, it is said, makes us acquainted with strange companions. A steam-packet, I am sure, does; for I have never entered one without beholding a most heterogeneous medley of people, the greater part with countenances indicative of sufferings actual or prospective.

Heaven defend me from inn beds! where, stretched on a mattress harder than a board, or sunk in a feather-bed breathing not of Araby the blest, one is condemned to count the weary hours of

dialogue full of sense, vivacity, and refinement. His dramatic works fall infinitely short of those of his uncle Corneille; but his "Dialogues of the Dead," and his "Reflections on Dramatic Poetry," are excellent.

One is often tempted to wish, that anecdotes, derogatory to literary characters, were less generally known. Who can think as well of those writers, whose works have charmed us, after having ascertained that they were cold, selfish, and unfeeling. Thus, many of the anecdotes related of Fontenelle, have left a prejudice against him in my mind that renders me less disposed to remember him with complacency. None of them is more illustrative of the selfishness of his disposition than that related of him by Grimm, who states, that Fontenelle, having a great partiality to asparagus dressed with oil, was, on a certain day, that he intended to regale himself with his favourite dish, surprised by a visit from the Abbé Terrasson, who proposed staying to dine with him. Fontenelle told him of the asparagus, when the Abbé Terrasson declared, he would only eat it dressed with butter. The host explained the sacrifice he made, in consenting that one half should be dressed with butter; but shortly after, the Abbé Terrasson fell from his chair, struck dead by apoplexy, when Fontenelle ran to the door of his kitchen, exclaiming,

"All the asparagus to be dressed with oil—all to be dressed with oil!"

Dining at Lord Hyde's a few days after, he remarked, that the anecdote of the Abbé Terrasson had brought asparagus into fashion, and increased the price. With an esprit the most caustic and epigrammatic, he was inordinately fond of praise. A person one day said, that to praise Fontenelle required the finesse and talent of Fontenelle.

"*N'importe*," replied the latter, "*Louez-moi, toujours.*"

Vertot's works are very voluminous, and his "Histories of Revolutions," of which he wrote no less than three, are worth perusal.

ST. GERMAIN EN LAYE, 30th.—I like this old place. Its very atmosphere inspires a dreamy sort of reverie, in which the mind is carried out of the busy present, into the pensive past. Here dwelt the Sybarite Louis XIV.; and here died, in exile, the dethroned James II. of England! How many heart burnings must the latter have endured from the period of being treated as the fêted monarch, until he became to be considered only as the pensioned refugee; his misfortunes aggravated, by the knowledge that a daughter usurped his throne. He must, indeed, have felt "how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is, to have a thankless child." That the ties of consanguinity are less regarded in the families of sovereigns, than in those of any other class, history has given us

many examples ; from the most remote periods, down to modern days, nay, even to Austria, in its abandonment of Napoleon. The son-in-law, the husband of a daughter, and the father of a grand-child of that royal house, Napoleon was too much of a *parvenu* among sovereigns, to have calculated on this desertion. A legitimate king would have been prepared for it.

The forest of St. Germain is delightful, and as I observed the sunbeams glancing through its umbrageous shades, my imagination peopled it with a royal calvacade, as in days of yore ; when the fourteenth Louis, attended by his courtiers, and ladies, pursued the chace, and the sound of hunting-horns rang through the woods. Here appeared the fair, and timid La Vallière, struggling between love, and religion, and doomed to find in a convent the peace a court denied her. Then passed the beautiful, but vain and ambitious de Montespan, proud of her shame, and glorying in her sin. Fontanges, and a whole host of other beauties glided by ; the cortége closed by Maintenon with grave yet sweet countenance, already meditating on the throne which she aspired to share ; and enslaving her royal lover, by a resistance, whose novelty formed, perhaps, her greatest, if not only attraction.

I could wander for hours in the Forest of St. Germain, reflecting on the glittering pageants that have appeared among its stately avenues in the olden time, and on the mighty changes that have since occurred. Here, all remains the same. The same blue sky looks down on the gigantic trees ; the same air rustles their leaves ; and the same green sward offers a carpet to the feet. But *they*, the proud, the gay, where are they ? *He* who abandoned the palace of St. Germain, because it commanded a view of the towers of St. Denis, where he was one day to repose, has long been consigned to that spot, he could not bear to contemplate, followed by little regret, and remembered but as a vain-glorious voluptuary ; a slave to love and luxury, in his youth, and to bigotry and superstition, in his old age. The coarser vices of the fifteenth Louis, screened the memory of his predecessor from the severity of censure he merited. Pompadour, and Du Barry, were considered to be more degrading mistresses to a monarch, than *les grandes dames* selected for that *glittering shame* by Louis XIV., and the park *aux cerfs*, a more demoralizing example, than a court, which might be almost looked on as a harem. French morals were shocked at the low intrigues of one monarch, though they had more than tolerated the more elevated profligacy of the other. But a true morality would be disposed to consider the courtly splendour attached to the loves of Louis XIV. as the more demoralizing example of the two, from being the less disgusting.

31st. — Left St. Germain with regret ; but the fair, to which

crowds were flocking, destroyed its greatest attraction for me, who like its solitude and repose. Fine ladies, and gentlemen, mingling in the dance; with grisettes, and shopmen, beneath trees from which lamps were suspended, soon fatigues even a looker-on; and the witnessing whole piles of edibles demolished, and whole bevvies of lovers rendering themselves agreeable, by filling the ears of their mistresses with flattery, and their mouths with cakes and *bonbons*, soon ceases to interest. What most strikes me in France, is the predetermination of being gay, evinced by all who frequent any place of amusement. Here, are never seen the vapid countenances, or *air ennuyé*, sure to be encountered at similar scenes in England; where people, especially those of the upper class, seem to go, only for the purpose of exhibiting their discontent. This facility of being amused, is a great blessing; more particularly to those, who cannot exist without at least making the effort to seek amusement. For myself, a book, or the society of two or three friends, is always sufficient, provided the book be one that makes me feel, or think, — in fact, be what I call a suggestive book, — and that the friends are imaginative people. But defend me from matter-of-fact ones! who reason when they ought to feel; and reduce all to the standard of their own mediocrity.

PARIS, 31st. — Always gay, and pleasant, but frivolous Paris! where to amuse oneself seems to be the sole business of life with all thine inhabitants, from the elegant *duchesse* of the Faubourg St. Germain, down to the *piquante grisette* of the Rue St. Denis. These people possess surely a most mercurial temperament, and give way to its excitements with a most philosophical *laissez aller*. We English are, or fancy that we are, wiser. Are we happier? Does the forethought, that impels us to pass half our days in acquiring means for enjoying the other half, leave us in a state to appreciate its advantages when they arrive? And are not the French wiser, who snatch at the present, and abandon the future to the arbitrement of chance? How thoroughly English it is of me, to enter into this grave, and hypothetical disquisition! while a bright sun is shining through my windows, numberless carriages rattling past them, and crowds of well dressed people flocking to the Tuileries gardens in front of my abode.

I have just returned from a visit to my old friend the Baron Denon, who was, as all my French acquaintances profess themselves to be, “ charmed to see me.” I like this warmth of manner, even though it may not always spring from the heart. It is at least an amiable deception calculated to give pleasure, and to injure no one; though we English denominate it by the harsh term of insincerity. The good Denon is a most amusing man, a compound of *savant* and *petit-maitre*; one moment, descanting on Egyptian

antiquities, and the next, passing eulogiums on the *joli chapeau* or *robe* of his female visitors. He seems equally at home in detailing the perfections of a mummy, or in describing "*le mignon pied d'une charmante femme*;" and not unfrequently turns from exhibiting some *morceau d'antiquité bien remarquable*, to display a cast of the exquisite hand of Pauline Borghese.

His anecdotes of his idol Napoleon, are very interesting, and, of course, are coloured by his partiality. He told me that, on one occasion, Napoleon wished him to make a sketch of Marie-Louise, for a statue which he intended to have executed by Canova. She was to be represented as a Roman Empress, with flowing drapery, bare arms, and a tiara. Denon was in her apartment, endeavouring to place her in a graceful posture; to accomplish which he found to be if not an impossible, at least a difficult task. Napoleon, who was present, appeared mortified at the total want of natural grace of the Empress; and when he next met Denon alone, remarked, "that it was strange that a person so perfectly well shaped should be so remarkably stiff, and *gauche* in all her movements."

May not grace be considered to be the *esprit* of the body?

Denon would be nothing, without his collection. His house is a perfect museum, and furnishes him with an inexhaustible topic on which to expend his superfluous animation, and scientific discoveries. Delighted with himself, and grateful to all who seem to participate in his self-adoration, he is the most obliging of all egotists; and, what is rare, the least tiresome. "*L'Empereur et moi*" forms the *refrain* of most of his monologues; and it is evident that he thinks one, in no degree inferior to the other. His vanity, *always* harmless, is frequently very amusing. It consoles him under every change, and solaces him under every privation. It also renders him observant of, and indulgent to, the vanity of others; which he conciliates by a delicate and judicious flattery, that seldom fails to send his visitors away, no less satisfied with him, than with themselves. He resembles certain mirrors, in which, though we know our image to be too favourable, we take an infinite pleasure in contemplating it.

September 1st.—MY BIRTH DAY.—I could be *triste*, and sentimental, were I to give way to the reflections which particular recollections awaken. In England, I should experience these doleful feelings, but at Paris, *tristesse* and sentimentality would be misplaced; so I must look *couleur de rose*, and receive the congratulations of my friends, on adding another year to my age; a subject far from meriting congratulations, when one has passed thirty. Youth, is like health, we never value the possession of either, until they have begun to decline.

There is no place, where privacy is so little to be enjoyed, as

at Paris ; unless one uses the precaution of locking one's door. I allude of course to an *hôtel garni*. Every five minutes, some *garçon en veste*, *frotteur sans veste*, or *laquais de place*, looks into the *salon*, or *chambre-à-coucher*, mutters a "*Pardon, madame*," and retreats, leaving one quite mystified, as to what could be the excuse for the intrusion. The *horloger* who regulates the *pendules* of this hotel walked into my chamber, *sans cérémonie*, this morning, ere I had left my pillow ; wound up the time-piece on the console, most methodically, and then withdrew, without a word of excuse, to my great astonishment, and to the horror of my *femme de chambre*, who followed him to the ante-room, to explain the indecorum of his conduct. An English clockmaker would be quite as much embarrassed, could he find himself in such a position, as the lady into whose room he had intruded ; but a Frenchman is never embarrassed, and considers another person's entertainment of this feeling, as a proof of *gaucherie*.

Oh ! the noises of every description, that assail one's ears, from early morn to midnight, in a Parisian hotel ! the neighing of horses in the court, the rumbling of carriage wheels, the swearing of coachmen, the grumbling of the porter, shrill voices of the female domestics, and occasional snatches of songs of the *laquais* ; with the chirping of birds, talking of parrots, yelping of dogs, mewling of cats, and ringing of bells ! How often, since my short sojourn here, have I been tempted to wish, that " I had the wings of the dove, and could flee away and be at rest," for this perpetual din confuses, and overpowers me !

There are many English here ; and almost all are full of complaints of the extravagance of the charges, badness of the dinners, and total want of comfort. Those accustomed to even a lavish expenditure at home, are disposed to be parsimonious abroad, and murmur at charges in Paris, that in London would be esteemed very reasonable. But the truth is, we English are prone to murmur ; it is the safety-valve of our bilious temperament : and the moment we are out of England, and are deprived of our never-failing topic for complaint, our climate, we vent our national discontent on other subjects.

2nd.—There is something peculiarly light and agreeable in the air here, and the animals, as well as the people, seem influenced by it. The trees in the Champs Élysées, and Tuileries, have assumed their rich autumnal hues ; and the ladies have added to their summer costume, a warm shawl, thrown over the shoulders with a grace peculiar to Parisians. The animation of their countenances, elegance of their *tournures*, and smallness of their feet, are remarkable ; and, joined to a certain *air dégagé*, equally free from boldness, as from awkwardness, render them extremely

attractive. It strikes me, that French women are more formed to be admired, than loved; and English women, *vice versa*. The constitutional gaiety and animation of the former, with their quickness at repartee, and love of society, while it serves to render them very agreeable, is not conducive to the creation of the soft, and grave sentiment of love: hence, the tender passion is more *talked* of, than *felt*, in France, and intrigues of gallantry are more frequent, than attachments founded on strong affection. Society is the paramount object of life, with a fine lady in France. For this, she dresses, thinks, talks, and arranges her house, all of which she does *à merveille*; and no where, consequently, is society better understood, or more agreeable. A perfect ease, and yet a scrupulous decorum, a vivacity that never passes the limits of good breeding, and a knowledge that never degenerates into pedantry, characterise it; as all must admit, who have had opportunities of judging.

An acquaintance of mine, once expressed his opinion of French ladies by saying, "They are pretty, lively, and amusing, but are too clever; and seem too certain of their own attractions to catch hearts, though they win admiration."

The politeness for which Frenchmen are proverbial, is much less flattering to individual vanity, than is the less ostentatious civility of Englishmen. The former is so general in his attentions, that he makes one feel, that the person to whom he is addressing them, is only receiving what would have been equally offered to any other lady by whom he might chance to have been placed; whereas, an Englishman, is either silent, or reserved, unless animated by a contact with some person who has pleased him: consequently, his compliments have a point, and, if I may use the expression, an individuality, that convince *her*, to whom they are addressed, that they could *not* have been applied to another. A Frenchman never forgets that he is talking to one of a sex for which he professes a general veneration; the Englishman forgets the whole sex in the individual that interests him.

Accomplishments, such as music, and dancing, considered to be peculiar to women in England, are as generally cultivated by males as by females in France. This habit, I think, though I know many will disagree with me, is injurious in its effects; because it assimilates the two sexes, which ought ever to retain their peculiar and distinct attributes. The more masculine a man's pursuits and amusements are, the more highly will he be disposed to estimate feminine accomplishments, in which he can have no rivalry; and which, by their novelty, may tend to form a delightful recreation for his leisure hours. The manly occupations which call him from home, render him more susceptible of the

charm of female society when he returns to it; hence I would encourage a system that tended to make women as feminine, without being effeminate, as possible; and men as masculine, without being coarse.

But, mercy on me! here am I systematizing, in the midst of noises, that give one an idea of Noah's ark; instead of enjoying the bright sunshine that is so tempting. *Allons!* for a *promenade en voiture*, in the Champs Elysées, and after that, *à pied* in the Tuilleries gardens.

3rd. *La cuisine française* has greatly degenerated even within my memory. The judges of the culinary art of *l'ancien régime*, declare that the *parvenue noblesse* of Napoleon's creation destroyed it, by bringing into vogue the savory, but coarse *plats* of their humbler days; but I think the influx of strangers, in 1814, did more to deteriorate it. Those who would form a just notion of *la cuisine française* in its pristine glory, must acquire a knowledge of it in the *salles à manger* of some of the *vieille cour* in the Faubourg St. Germain; or in a few of the houses of our own nobility in London, who have preserved some *chef de cuisine*, whose *savoir* has not been corrupted or palate impaired, by the impurities of the modern French school. In such houses, they will find a preponderance of white over brown sauces; onions will be rendered innoxious by being stewed in loaf sugar; and fish, fowl, and flesh will be refined by a process that, while expelling their grossness, leaves all the nutritious quality. A perfect French dinner is like the conversation of a very clever and highly educated man—enough of the raciness of the inherent natural quality remains to gratify the taste, but rendered more attractive by the manner in which it is presented. An old nobleman used to say that he could judge of a man's birth by the dishes he preferred; but above all, by the vegetables: truffles, morels, mushrooms, and peas, in their infancy, he designated as aristocratic vegetables; but all the vast stock of beans, full-grown peas, carrots, turnips, parsnips, cauliflower, onions, etc., etc., he said were only fit for the vulgar.

The Spaniards have introduced a taste for garlic in Paris, and the restaurants have adopted it in many of their *plats*, the odour of which, fortunately, warns one in time. Apropos of garlic, somebody said that the Spaniards were so patriotic that they never forgot their country; "How can they," observed a listener, "when the taste and smell of it never forsake their mouths?"

4th.—The dinners at our hotel are execrable; and so seemed our friend, Mr. Moore, the poet, to think yesterday. I hate going to dine at a restaurateur's, though it is quite *à la mode* for the English to do so here; and consequently I prefer a bad dinner at home. But it really was provoking to invite T. Moore to partake

a repast so unworthy of him. A mouth that utters such brilliant things, should only be fed on dainty ones; and as his skill in gastronomy nearly equals his skill in poetry, a failure in one art must be almost as trying to his temper, as the necessity of reading a failure, in the other: nay, it would be worse, for one may laugh at a bad poem, but who has philosophy enough to laugh at a bad dinner? A true gastronome might, on seeing one, exclaim with the good Roman Emperor, "I have lost a day;" for no substitute of *côtelette à la minute*, or *recherché souper*, can atone for the first disappointment. As our cook is considered to be one of the most accomplished *artistes*, the novelty of a bad dinner abroad may be endured with Christian patience: but so thought not some of our friends, who were eloquent on the abomination of charging extravagantly for fare that was only fit for those who look more to the quantity, than to the quality.

5th.—I have passed the morning in descending *la Montagne Russe*, a very childish, but exhilarating amusement. One soon conquers the nervousness attending a first descent; after which, the extreme velocity with which one is hurried along, is so agreeable an excitement, that I am not surprised to find that many people have frequent recourse to it. T. Moore often visits this spot, and greatly enjoys a descent. It is pleasant to observe with what a true zest he enters into every scheme of amusement; though the buoyancy of his spirits, and resources of his mind, render him so independent of such means of passing time. His is a happy temperament, that conveys the idea of having never lived out of sunshine; and his conversation reminds one of the evolutions of some bird of gorgeous plumage, each varied hue of which becomes visible as he carelessly sports in the air.

Our domestics already murmur at the hardships to which they are exposed, and begin to sigh for the flesh-pots of England. What will they think of Italy? where, by all accounts, servants live in a state nearly approaching patriarchal simplicity. After all, a certain station of life brings with it its own annoyances. The greater number of domestics one is compelled to keep, the greater are the torments they inflict; for they are so incapable of submitting to aught in the shape of hardships, and are so prone to consider every deviation from their ordinary routine of comforts, as such, that they are generally found to be more troublesome than useful out of England. The ladies' maids sigh for their tea and toast, and the men groan at the absence of their beef and porter. I have observed that persons accustomed from infancy to the utmost luxury, can better submit to the privations occasioned by travelling, than can their servants. The minds of the one class being interested by novel scenes, forget, in the excitement they expe-

rience, the loss of those physical enjoyments which habit had rendered almost necessary; while the others, having no such gratification, daily and hourly feel the want of that which constitutes their principal pleasure—a luxurious table. The greater the degree of mental occupation, the less will be the fastidiousness of the palate, or the anxiety to indulge it; but those who pay least attention to the mind, are precisely those who devote the most to the body.

The English here appear to enter into the amusements with a most business-like assiduity; each tells one that he or she *must* go to the theatres, (*bon gré mal gré*), for every one goes; must drive in the dusty Bois de Boulogne, or more dusty Champs Élysées, because every one drives or rides there; must form one of the crowd at the English ambassador's on a certain evening; and do half-a-dozen other equally tiresome things: all of which they profess to detest doing, but to which an imaginary sense of necessity compels them. All this seems very incomprehensible to the French; one of whom observed to me, that my compatriots seemed to “*s'ennuyer beaucoup en cherchant à s'amuser.*”

Here, where people are very much disposed to forget the *qu'en dira-t-on*, provided they please themselves, our mania, of seeking amusement as an imperative duty, or as a means of displaying our fashion, by being seen everywhere, seems a most unaccountable infatuation. Each individual of a certain station here has sufficient self-respect, *amour-propre*, or what you will, to consider him, or herself, in no way dependent on an association with others for the estimation to which they believe themselves entitled. Hence their conduct is not influenced by that of others; and their modes of life are more easy and agreeable. They are not afraid of losing *caste*, if *not* seen in such or such circles, or if *seen*, in others. They are not continually endeavouring to exhibit their intimacies with people of distinction, or shrinking from acknowledging them with those who are obscure. In short, *Fashion*, that tyrant whose reign is so despotic in England, is here compelled to limit his influence to the *dresses* of his subjects, leaving their *minds* free from his thralldom.

Yes, they manage all this better in France than with us; *not* perhaps because they are more wise, but because they are more vain; that is, they have more individual vanity than we have. When the effect is so good, we ought not to analyse the *cause* too closely.

6th.—Spent the greater part of the day at the Louvre. Though this is my third visit to Paris, and that I have visited the gallery of the Louvre at least thirty times, I derived as much gratification from it to-day, nay perhaps even more, than on my first view of

it. I think that fine music, fine sculpture, and fine pictures gain by long acquaintance; for independent of their own attractions, they acquire those of association. One remembers when, and with whom, they were first heard, or seen, the novelty of the pleasure they excited, and the impressions to which they gave birth; and we live the past over again on hearing or beholding them. *They* are always the same, but *we* are already changed, and ever changing. There is something that stirs the soul and elevates the feelings, in gazing on these glorious productions of master minds, where genius has left its ineffaceable impress, to bear witness to posterity of its achievements. The sublime beauty of form, the inspired expression of countenance, and the gorgeous colouring, the work of cunning hands long mouldered in the dust, appeal to our sympathies; and withdraw us from the egotistical feelings in which we are but too prone to indulge. What dreams must have been theirs, who thus portrayed all that the imagination can fancy of beautiful and sublime! How must their hearts have throbbed as the glowing images grew beneath their pencils, and a foretaste of the immortality they were labouring for was granted. Yes, they must have felt that for ages and ages, eyes would dwell with delight on their works, and grateful lips murmur their names; and this anticipation of fame must have incited them to merit it; for genius, like hope, looks ever to the future.

Pictures, like music, and in truth, like all that is fine, are to be felt, and not reasoned upon. When I hear the cant of criticism, every assertion of which goes far to prove the want of feeling of those who utter it, I turn away in disgust, to meditate in silence on what others can talk about, but not comprehend. Here, Claude Lorrain seems to have imprisoned on canvass, the golden sunshine in which he bathed his landscapes. There, Raphael makes us, though stern Protestants, worship a Madonna and child; such is the innocence, sweetness, and beauty with which he has imbued his subjects. Leonardo da Vinci, with the exquisite finish and grace that characterise the pencil of that great artist, is contrasted by the bold and vigorous pictures of Salvator Rosa, who painted only the stern and savage of animate and inanimate nature. There, glows a Titian, with the warm hues of the painter of voluptuous beauty,—he who made even the goddess of love as fair as imagination represents her. And there, a Rubens, who, though his pencil was dipped in the brightest tints, too often expended its rich colouring on forms that look as if fed on the coarsest fat of the land. The exuberant *embonpoint* of Rubens' women disgusts me; they appear designed to attract the admiration of graziers, or butchers, only; and even those who most admire his brilliant colouring, must wish he had chosen more delicate subjects on which to

display it. The observation of a countrywoman, on contemplating one of these over-fed representations, amused me:—" *Dieu, comme elle est bien nourrie!*"

Paul Veronese might truly be called *le peintre de bonne compagnie*. Lords and ladies, satins, damask, cloth of gold, gilt vases, glowing fruit, marble columns, and balustrades, golden-haired dames, and richly-attired knights, stand forth in all his works, forming a gorgeous combination and *ensemble*, that glads and satisfies the eye. He seemed to revel in luxurious subjects; yet there is no glare in his pictures; all is harmonious and finely toned.

I am a passionate admirer of the Venetian school. Its productions, like a fine lamp, illumine the spot where they are placed, with a warm, sunny hue, that one feels on entering it. They form an atmosphere of light and beauty. With Titian, Giorgione, Paul Veronese, Tintoretto, and Bassano, one could get up a sort of *serre chaude*, to warm the imagination, in our northern climate; where nine months, at least, of every year the mind suffers, nearly as much as the body, from cold.

On viewing the treasures of art in the Louvre, and examining the works of the generality of modern French artists, one is surprised that with such models, they should have made so little progress. Their school is meretricious, hard, and laboured; an undue attention is bestowed on the accessories in their pictures, to the detriment of the principal objects; and the details are so minutely executed, as to bear the closest inspection, while the general effect is impaired by a want of power and vigour. Their Gerard falls infinitely short of our Lawrence in portrait painting; notwithstanding, he is a man of considerable ability. I must except David's portrait of Pope Pius the Seventh, from my censure on French portraits; for it is admirable.

Horace Vernet is one of the most remarkable artists of the day, and is gifted with a versatility of talent as rare as it is valuable. It is interesting to see hereditary genius thus passing to the third generation, and without deterioration.

There are several clever painters of *tableaux de genre* in France, but how immeasurably inferior to our Wilkie are their best; and who have they to compete with Landseer and many others? Yes, England has made a mighty stride in art, although she has had no Louvre to study *chefs-d'œuvre* in, nor ransacked Italy and Spain of their choicest productions. This is something of which to be proud; especially in a people that Napoleon was pleased to designate "a nation of shopkeepers."

8th. — Spent the morning at the Louvre, in the sculpture galleries. What treasures of art! The Diana is exquisite, the very

personification of dignity and *fiercé*; beautiful in the details, and charming in the *ensemble*; yet how totally different from the beauty of the Venus! One hardly knows to which to yield the palm. The latter, all softness and roundness, the forms melting into one another, and imbued, as it were, with a conscious bashfulness: the other, cold, haughty, fearless, yet not masculine; with all of woman's beauty, and none of its effeminacy. How inimitable are the works of the ancients! What repose, dignity, and grace! There is an individuality conspicuous, even in the statues which are most elevated above the limits of mortal beauty, which yet proves that they were copied from nature; a nature far superior to that which we behold, because unspoilt by tight-lacing or compression.

The Gladiator, whose real station, the cognoscenti have not yet decided, some asserting it to be a warrior, and others maintaining it to be a gladiator, is a fine statue. There is something in the face indicative of a more elevated character than we attribute to a mercenary fighter; an expression of moral as well as physical courage, and the action is vigorous and full of life. Byron has done as much as Agaseas, the sculptor who executed this *chef-d'œuvre*, to give immortality to the gladiator; for who can behold the statue without thinking of his beautiful allusion to the subject, suggested by the view of the Coliseum and the celebrated statue at Rome.—

"I see before me the Gladiator lie:
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony;
And his droop'd head sinks gradually low—
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,
Like the first of a thunder shower; and now
The arena swims around him—he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hail'd the wretch who won.

"He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes
Were with his heart, and that was far away;
He reck'd not of the life he lost, nor prize,
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,
There were his young barbarians all at play;
There was their Dacian mother—he, their sire,
Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday.
All this rush'd with his blood. Shall he expire?
And unavenged?—Arise! ye Goths, and glut your ire!"

The Gladiator was found at Actium, near to the place where the Appollo of Belvidere was discovered; which leads to the conclusion that some connoisseur of the arts, wealthy enough to indulge an exquisite taste, must have had a residence there. Happy man! who enjoyed, even for the brief span of his life, works that have

delighted posterity ; and which, after the lapse of so many centuries, remain as models to direct taste, and prove the excellence which we cannot reach. It has frequently occurred to me that the sculptors of antiquity had an advantage in practising their art, denied to or, at least, rarely possessed by, those of our own time. I refer to the physiognomies of that epoch ; the expressions of which were more simple and concentrated than at present. Enough of civilization then existed to admit of all the graceful adjuncts of decoration in the costumes, and in the care of the persons of their subjects, which is required to form a fine work ; yet originality of expression, or peculiarity of *tournure*, was not impaired by the mannerism of fashion, or the insipidity of imitation, which in our days render so many people alike. The passions, too, were then more powerful, and consequently more strikingly developed in the countenances, than now ; when affectation, engendered by extreme civilization, and nurtured by a false refinement, has much deteriorated natural expression. Women dared to frown or smile then, without remembering the effect of either movement of the muscles on their beauty. Now, they seldom exceed a simper, and even this only when they have good teeth.

Pictures, when compared with statues, appear evanescent as the beings they are made to represent. A few centuries passed, and they are faded or destroyed ; while the enduring marble resists time, and triumphs over decay.

9th.—Lord —— dined with us. I wonder whether I shall ever arrive at the *sang-froid* and *nonchalance* that distinguish him ! The *nil admirari* seems indeed to be his motto. He has seen as much of the world as most men, has read more, and is by no means deficient in good sense or ability. How, therefore, he can lead the indolent life he pursues, astonishes me ! Play has, I am told, produced this effect. This vice, like the touch of the torpedo, benumbs the faculties, and destroys the pure sense of enjoyment natural to a healthy state of mind. It has not however soured his temper, which is all mildness ; nor injured his manners, which are peculiarly agreeable. Gaming, like intoxication, gives birth to a progeny of other vices, generally rendering those who yield to it, as baneful to self, as careless of others : he therefore, who has so long practised it, without losing either his reputation or temper, must have originally possessed a superior nature.

There is something very agreeable in the manners of a perfectly well-bred Englishman. His civilities never appear insincere or exaggerated ; they are marked by a deference for the person to whom they are addressed, as well as by a self-respect that precludes flattery. His opinions are pronounced with a moderation and modesty, that prevents their irritating the vanity of those who may

differ from him; and his knowledge, however various and extensive, is left to be discovered by, but is never obtruded on, his associates. A well-bred Englishman appears to think only of the persons to whom he speaks; while foreigners seem to think more of themselves.

10th.—Leave-taking is a *triste* ceremony: I have been half the day busily occupied, for to-morrow we depart. Half the persons to whom I have bidden adieu, have told me that I am sure to be disappointed in my expectations of the south of France and Italy; and the other half have predicted that I shall be delighted. I hope the latter may be the true prediction, though I go forth with no Smelfungus (1) predisposition to be dissatisfied, nor yet with any very enthusiastic anticipations of being charmed. In short, I am prepared not to dislike things because they are *not* English, or to like them solely because they are foreign; a mistake into which too many of my compatriots are prone to fall.

The travelling carriages, and *fourgon*, piled with imperials, and "all appliances to boot," make a very formidable array in the court-yard; and the courier, who has donned his *habit de voyage*, begins to re-assume his air of importance, as he bustles from one carriage to another, examining the springs, etc., etc. He had sunk into insignificance ever since our arrival at Paris, "his occupation gone;" but now he looks as though he considered himself an illustrious personage. The ladies' maids are packing, and "Oh! la-ing" at the wondrous capabilities of the imperials, chaise seats, etc., to contain the luggage added to the stock by the purchases made at Paris; and the valets and footmen are grumbling, in a most English-like fashion, at the weight of the trunks they have to stow away.

"How strange those English are!" observed a Frenchman to his companion, beneath my window, as they paused to examine our preparations. They had previously questioned our courier if all belonged to the same proprietor; and he, with "decent dignity," had replied in the affirmative. "One would suppose, that instead of a single family, a regiment at least, were about to move," continued the Frenchman; "how many things those people require, to satisfy them!"

There was some philosophy, as well as truth, in the reflection; and it forced me to think how many chains luxury forges for its votaries, in the innumerable comforts which it teaches us to

(1) "The learned Smelfungus travelled from Boulogne to Paris—from Paris to Rome—and so on; but he set out with the spleen and jaundice, and every object he pass'd was discoloured or distorted. He wrote an account of them, but 'twas nothing but the account of his miserable feelings."—*Sterne's Sentimental Journey*.

regard as necessities; and the enjoyment of which is even more troublesome than the want of them could ever prove, if we were once to inure ourselves to their absence. Use, while it addicts us to superfluities, blunts the gratification their possession might have first occasioned; at the same time, rendering us more dependent on others, and less sufficient to self. If those blessed with competence, enjoy not all the pleasures granted to the rich, they, at least, escape many of the annoyances; for endless is the train of petty evils, that attend the wealthy and luxurious, the imaginary ones, often inflicting as much pain as the real. How easy it is to philosophise, but how difficult to reduce our philosophy to practice! I am afraid that with all my tendency to ruminate and to analyse, I could not cheerfully resign a *dormeuse à double ressort*, with its library, soft cushions, and eider-down pillows, its *nécessaire à déjeuner et à dîner*, safely stowed in a well, and its innumerable other little comforts, without a sigh of regret.

FONTAINEBLEAU, 12th.—*En route*—I have passed some hours looking over the palace and grounds. Saw the gallery where Christine of Sweden had the wretched Monaldeschi murdered, and the chamber where Napoleon signed his abdication. Two spots rendered historical by the enactment, on them, of two tragical scenes in the drama of life, for it is impossible to believe that Napoleon laid down his crown without almost as bitter emotions, as Monaldeschi resigned his life. A cruel woman is an anomaly in nature, and there is a ferocity in this act of Christine, that destroyed for ever all sympathy for her, in the hearts of her own sex.

Here it was, that Napoleon, the spoiled child of fortune, received the first severe lesson from the fickle goddess, who had so long favoured him. Here, impatiently waiting for a resignation, which they knew it must fill his heart with unutterable pangs to make, his ungrateful courtiers counted the moments until they could fly from him; fearing that, like the fall of some mighty oak in the forest, which crushes all the lesser trees within its reach, his fall should destroy them. They repressed not the symptoms of their cruel haste, from him, before whom, for years, they had bowed down and worshipped: and his eagle eye, accustomed hitherto to meet only looks of homage and adoration, now fell on recreant countenances, whence ingratitude had chased even habitual hypocrisy.

Caulaincourt, the flower of French chivalry, forsook not him, whom fortune had crushed; and in the fearful solitude of a palace, that echoed back but the footsteps of departing courtiers, or the sighs of their deserted and ruined chief, he staid to console, when he could no longer serve him. The fall of Napoleon, furnishes a

fine subject for a tragedy; but the event is too recent to admit of its being done justice to. What must have been the mental sufferings of this hero of a hundred fights, during his *sejour* in this palace! The past, the glorious and brilliant past, must have appeared to him but as a dream; and the present, a reality too fearful in its consequences, and disgusting in its details, to be contemplated without dismay. The treatment he experienced in his reverses, must reflect eternal dishonour on those whom he elevated to a height, of which their base ingratitude towards him subsequently proved they never were worthy. Englishmen would have been ashamed of this open and impudent display of baseness, even could they have been guilty of it, which I am willing to believe impossible.

The finest willow trees I ever saw, are at Fontainebleau: they were frequently admired by Napoleon, who, when in exile at St. Helena, selected a peculiarly large one for his favourite place of repose, during his walks. His thoughts must have been mournful at such moments, when a prisoner on a rock in the ocean, looking only for deliverance by death, and reminded by the willow of those in the far off land of his glory, he felt that few, if any, ever more strikingly exemplified in their own persons the mutability of fortune. He sleeps the sleep of oblivion, beneath his favourite tree; his narrow bed made by English soldiers, who paid the last honours to him, whom those he had so often led to victory had deserted.

GENEVA, 15th.—A chasm in my Journal. The truth is, the journey between Fontainebleau and Mount Jura, offered nothing worth noticing. But the descent repays one for all the tedious toil of the ascent. I had made a vow, never to attempt a description of scenery, however it might have charmed me; for all descriptions that I have ever read, however accurate they may have been, have generally produced only a vague indistinct mass of images on my brain, rather fatiguing than gratifying. But Mount Jura has left an impression on my memory, that I would fain fix on my page; as tourists make a slight sketch of some scene that has delighted them, as a memento for a future picture.

Stupendous mountains, whose summits are lost in the clouds, are contrasted by less ones, covered with fir-trees, whose gigantic branches seem formed to brave the storm. Rocks, huge and grotesque in their forms, appear ready to topple from their bases, and threaten destruction on all beneath. Blue mountains fading into distance, with occasional views of valleys, whose luxuriant fertility seems to bid defiance to the snow-capped mountains that bound the horizon, break upon the eye, exciting fresh wonder, and delight. The steep and abrupt turns of the road appear so

dangerous, as to beget a notion that one false step must be attended with fatal results; and the sensations occasioned by this dread, add considerably to the sublimity of the scenery. On arriving at the top of the Jura, the effect is almost magical, particularly at evening. Masses of clouds spread around, covering parts of the mountain, and leaving others unveiled; while at their base seems to float a sea, which is formed of vapour, and which gives to the uncovered mountain, the appearance of an immense and isolated rock, surrounded by a world of waters. The vapours pass, from mountain to mountain, with an inconceivable rapidity; assuming in their flight a thousand wild and fantastic forms, and leaving toweringly conspicuous the huge rocks they desert, like giants guarding their territories. While descending we were enveloped in clouds, which were so dense, that one of our carriages, which only preceded mine by a short distance, became often invisible. We saw it close to us at one moment, and the next, it disappeared as into a gulf, and all trace of it was lost. The sensations produced by this scene, are indescribable. I felt as if entering on an unknown world; and beholding those dear to me, hurried away before, snatched from my sight even at the moment I expected to join them; yet, scarcely have I had time to mark their departure, ere I am compelled to follow the same route, and enter the clouds that concealed them. Eternity was brought to my mind, in these regions that seemed coeval with it; and a deep, but tender melancholy, stole over my soul. Nature, beautiful, and sublime nature, yours is the universal language to which every heart responds! You lift our thoughts to the Divinity that created you and us; you, to endure for ages, and we, but for a brief span, yet gifted with aspirations that mount beyond you, ay, even to the throne of the power that formed both!

The first view of the lake of Geneva, from the summit of the Jura, is beautiful beyond description. It looks like a vast mirror, which reflects on its glassy surface the azure clouds that float above it, lending to them a still deeper tint of blue. This beautiful lake is bounded by verdant lawns, adorned with umbrageous trees, and flowering shrubs, and interspersed with picturesque villas; each of which looks the *beau idéal* of a delicious solitude.

Descending the Jura, the simple but sweet music, a shepherd's pipe, stole on my ear; and all that I have heard or read of the effect of the *Ranz des Vaches*, seemed realized; such was the melancholy, yet harmonious sounds it breathed, awakening a pensiveness in all who heard it. The very postilions seemed moved; for they slackened the pace of their steeds, and ceased to crack their whips. But for me, the notes appeared to touch some chord in my heart, that vibrated to its tones. Mysterious power of music!

how often have I owned your influence, "touching the electric chain by which we're darkly bound," and wafting the thoughts, far, far away.

GENEVA, 16th.—I went to sleep last night with the sound of the murmuring Rhône in my ears; and awoke this morning impatient again to view the "Leman lake." How "brightly beautifully blue it is!" It looks as if the heavens had bathed in it, and left behind in its limpid waters a portion of their azure loveliness. How many eyes, to whom no common vision was granted, have dwelt with pleasure on this beautiful lake! Voltaire, the most brilliant scoffer that ever lifted the veil from the defects of his species, or gloried in exposing them; Rousseau, who avenged himself on mankind by displaying, in his Confessions, how base, how unworthy man could be: he, whose imagination was all warmth and tenderness, and whose heart was cold and hard as the ice of his native mountains,—Gibbon, the always patient investigator, but not always impartial narrator, who sneered at, more frequently than he pitied, the errors he related: De Staël, the brilliant, the eloquent De Staël, whose genius caught, as it were, by intuition, the truths that others only discover by a life of laborious study.

Shelley, the passionate, the visionary poet, dreaming away life in a world of his own creation, and giving us glimpses of its brightness in his poems: and though last, not least, Byron, the child of genius, whose passions are converted into chords, from which he can draw forth music that finds an echo in every heart. Yes, this lake is invested with an interest, more powerful than its beauty could awaken, by its association in the mind with the gifted beings who have lingered on its margin.

Sismondi resides at Geneva, and is universally beloved and respected. He is the only literary man at present here, or at least the only one of whom I have heard.

Each change of the atmosphere gives a new physiognomy to this beautiful spot. At one hour the mountains are scarcely visible, enveloped in the dense vapours that surround them; while at another, their outlines are clearly defined, and they stand so boldly prominent, that they seem to have advanced nearer to the spectator. But it is at evening, that Mont Blanc puts on its most brilliant aspect; when the rays of the setting sun tinge its snow-crowned summits, casting on them a rosy radiance, which they retain for a short period, even after the bright luminary that lent it has disappeared from our sight; like memory, which retains images after the reality has faded away.

Went to Ferney to-day—that Ferney, where Voltaire constantly occupied by, and for, the world which he affected to despise, spent so considerable a portion of his time. The *salon*, and *chambre à*

coucher, are preserved in the same state as when he inhabited them; except that the curtains of his bed have suffered from the desire visitors have evinced to possess a small portion of them. Hence, piece after piece has disappeared, until only a small fragment of the drapery remains. This desire to possess some memorial of departed genius has been often ridiculed; yet it is natural, and is one of the modes by which we display our homage to those who have merited celebrity. I confess it gave me pleasure to obtain a few relics at Ferney; and among the rest, a portion of that curtain, beneath whose shade a head so often reposed, whose cogitations have been disseminated over all Europe. In the centre of the *chambre à coucher*, is a black marble vase, that formerly contained Voltaire's heart, and which bears the following inscription:—" *Mon esprit est partout, et mon cœur est ici.*"

Over the vase is inscribed—

" *Mes mânes sont consolés, puisque mon cœur est au milieu de vous.*"

The sentiment of affectionate retrospection that dictated these inscriptions, induces one to pardon the affectation of placing such a monument in a room.

The garden and pleasure grounds at Ferney, have nothing remarkable; except it be a trellissed walk, planned by Voltaire, with openings like windows in the sides, to admit views of the fine scenery around. This was his favourite promenade, and he sauntered for hours in it, with a note-book, in which he entered his reflections; and thence retired to a rustic building adjacent, where he dictated to his secretary some of those lucubrations that have found even more admirers than censors among their readers. The rustic building is destroyed, but the trees that overshadowed it remain, as also some planted by Voltaire, from which his admirers cut off small branches as mementos. A garrulous old gardener, who acted as our cicerone, had lived with, and professed to remember the philosopher perfectly. He described him as vivacious and irascible to a degree, violent while the irritation continued, but placable and kind when it had subsided. He stated that frequently when at work in the garden, Voltaire has approached him abruptly, seized him by the ear, which he sharply pinched, and angrily demanding what he was doing, reprehended the operation; but that in a few minutes he returned, and seeing the work in a more forward state, he has good-naturedly exclaimed—" *Eh bien! mon ami, vous avez raison, cela est bien, fort bien même.*" The gardener remembered to have one day observed an English traveller approach close to the terrace where Voltaire was standing, and stare at him with an air of intense curiosity. Voltaire turned himself round and round, that the stranger might

have a more distinct view of him ; then retired, and desired his secretary to demand *dix sous* from the stranger for having seen the lion.

The impression on entering the hall at Ferney is a painful one, for a picture hangs in it that offers an irrefragable proof of the overweening vanity of Voltaire. It represents him offering the *Henriade* to Apollo, who has descended to receive it. The temple of Memory is seen in the distance, with Fame approaching it, and pointing to the *Henriade*, Voltaire is surrounded by the Muses and Graces. The characters in the *Henriade* are also presented, and the authors who attacked him are portrayed as falling into the gulf which yawns to receive them. Envy and her train are prostrate at the feet of Voltaire ; and to crown all, the family of Calas are drawn into the picture. Vanity of vanities, how pitiable in such a writer !

The portraits of Frederic the Great of Prussia, Catherine the second of Russia, the Marquise du Châtelet, and Le Kain, hang in the bed-room of Voltaire, with his own portrait in the centre. That of the Marquise du Châtelet has an air of individuality, that vouches for its resemblance to the original. The countenance is *piquant*, lively, and intelligent ; and the dress and air denote the united pretensions of a coquette and *bas-bleu*. She is represented with a pair of compasses in her hand, and the affected posture of the fingers, with the rings that adorn them, prove that the woman was not forgotten in the mathematician ; and that she who commented upon Newton, neglected not the graces.

The attachment of Voltaire and Madame du Châtelet forms a curious episode in the lives of both ; and however we may be disposed to believe the sympathy that attracts genius to its kindred genius, their peculiar characters compel us to admit the probability that theirs was an attachment formed more by vanity than affection : at least, so it appears to have been on her side ; witness her *liaison* with Saint-Lambert. There is something approaching the ludicrous in the whole history of this affair ; though her death, *en couche*, which forms the sequel to it, throws a sombre hue over this delectable *tableau de mœurs françaises*, which not even Voltaire's lamentations, comic as they are, can enliven. The philosopher of Ferney professed to look on Saint-Lambert as an assassin who had destroyed the Marquise ; and so robbed the world and him of its most brilliant ornament.

The discovery of Saint-Lambert's portrait, in a ring which Voltaire had given her, and which originally contained his likeness, must have furnished a scene worthy the talents of a Molière. This ring had been constantly worn, and Voltaire, on the death of the Marquise, claimed it, stating that it contained his portrait.

What must have been his surprise, on touching the spring, to discover that of his rival ! yet it prevented him not from honouring her memory by the following pompous epitaph :—

“ L'univers a perdu la sublime Emilie ;
Elle aimait les plaisirs, les arts, la vérité ;
Les dieux en lui donnant leur âme et leur génie,
Ne se sont réservés que l'immortalité.”

The “sublime Emilie's” memory, however, found more detractors than defenders. Among the countless mordant epitaphs her death occasioned, the subjoined forms a curious contrast with that of Voltaire ; and proves that even the grave does not always disarm malice :—

“ Ci-gît qui perdit la vie
Dans le double accouchement
D'un traité de philosophie,
Et d'un malheureux enfant.
Lequel des deux nous l'a ravi ?
Sur ce funeste événement
Quelle opinion devons-nous suivre ?
Saint-Lambert s'en prend au livre,
Voltaire dit que c'est l'enfant.”

Literary men have rarely chosen *bas-bleus* for the objects of affection ; and the few exceptions to this rule have not been fortunate. Among one of the many proofs of the truth of this assertion, the *dénouement* of the *tendresse* of Pope for Lady Mary Wortley Montagu may be cited. Are we to attribute this indifference to literary ladies, on the part of literary men, to *jalousie du métier* ; or is it, that ladies generally assume not heaven's cerulean blue, until the more attractive tints of the lily and rose have fled ? Certain, however, it appears, that men of genius seldom seek in the other sex those who are the most capable of appreciating them ; youth and beauty attracting their homage much more than talents, or acquirements. Learned ladies must therefore console themselves with loving literature for its own sake ; and expect not that excellence in it will obtain for them any other than “its own exceeding great reward.” Madame de Staël felt this, to her, mortifying fact ; and felt it more like a woman than a philosopher, when she declared, that she would resign all her genius, to possess the loveliness of Madame Recamier. Hear this, ye beauties, and exult in your empire, fleeting though it be ! exult, I say, until the arrival of that fearful epoch, known by the mysterious appellation of “a certain age ;” but which is just precisely the most uncertain age imaginable ; the belle of the present day fixing it at twenty-five, and she of the past at, heaven only knows, how many years later. But at this sombre resting-place, the isthmus between life and death, even in a protracted existence, ye must yield up your sceptres ; and then it is, that literary ladies enjoy an advantage over you, as that is the

period when, though beauty is faded, intellect is the most developed. The French, who understand such matters better than we do, have decreed that, after thirty-five, ladies should not wear rose-colour, but blue is allowed to all ages : and this being a very ancient regulation, has probably marked the epoch of "a certain age," as well as that too, when the dynasty may be aspired to.

But to return to Geneva, and its beautiful environs ; who can explore them, without wondering that in such a region, and with such a view, as Coppet commands, its gifted owner could declare her preference for the *triste* and filthy *ruisseau* of the Rue du Bac at Paris, to the blue Lake of Geneva? This it is to live for the world ! whose artificial enjoyments render us incapable of tasting the pure and renovating charms of nature. Madame de Staël, by the power of association, had united the opaque *ruisseau* of the Rue du Bac with the brilliant circle of admiring listeners who surrounded her at Paris ; until, in imagination, it not only lost all its disgusting attributes, but gained, by its proximity to that circle, a portion of its attraction. It "was not the rose, but it dwelt near it ;" while the beautiful lake, reflecting only the heavens, or the fields, and trees, that bordered it, could recall no *souvenirs* of brilliant *réunions*, and literary triumphs : consequently the *ruisseau* was preferred.

17th.—Beautiful as is the Lake of Geneva by day, it is, if possible, even more so by moonlight. A silvery radiance bathes its smooth and limpid surface ; broken only by the reflection of the lights from the windows of the houses on its shore, which fall on it like columns of molten gold. We this day visited the English burial-ground, to view the last narrow home of our poor friend G. Three years ago, I saw him in the possession of youth, health, and spirits.—Little did either of us then imagine, that it was to be our last meeting on earth ! As I plucked the rank grass from his grave, to read the inscription on the marble that it had overgrown, the most serious homily, or eloquent discourse on death, could not have appealed so forcibly to my feelings. The tomb of a friend, at all times a melancholy contemplation, becomes still more so in a foreign land, far, far from the home, that saw the friendship to the deceased bud and bloom. That solitary grave, where no kindred come to weep, where no fond hand plucks the wild weeds and thistles away ; how many fond thoughts and tender regrets does it awaken ! Yet, though divided by seas, there are memories that often turn to this lonely tomb. Sisters, who have wept with bitterness, him who sleeps in it ; and who would fain shed those tears on his grassy bed, that have so often bedewed their own pillows ! How did the scenes of other days recur to my mind, as I perused the simple inscription ! The blue mountains and bright

river, the dark woods, and green meads, where the dead and I passed our childhood, seemed to be again before my eyes; and the smiling faces and dear familiar voices of those long departed, were again seen and heard. How strange, how inexplicable, is the human heart! I had heard of poor G.'s death with regret; but the recollection soon passed away, in the turmoil of that vain and busy world, in whose haunts the intelligence had reached me. Now, his loss was more keenly felt, more deeply mourned; and that deserted grave, in a strange land, awakened recollections that had slumbered for years. It is good for us to accustom ourselves to scenes which compel us to reflect on the brevity and uncertainty of life, prone as we are, to be all engrossed by the pleasures and pursuits that make us forget its insecurity. It is affliction that rends the veil which concealed the inevitable destiny that awaits us; but in disenchanting us, it robs death of his terrors, and we grow at length to consider, "*La morte è fin d'una prigion' oscura.*"

18th.—Went to-day to see the house in which J. J. Rousseau was born. It stands in a street named after him; and is a small mean-looking habitation, only distinguished from those around it by an inscription, stating it to be the birth-place of that unfortunate genius; for unfortunate he may well be considered, when we reflect upon the troubled course of his life. Misfortunes produced by misconduct seldom meet with commiseration; though they have always seemed to me as peculiarly requiring it, from the additional pang inflicted on the sufferer by the consciousness of having drawn them on himself. Those of Rousseau, were assuredly the fruit of his own wilfulness, and the indulgence of a morbid sensibility, unchecked by fixed principles, and unredeemed by tenderness of heart. His was a susceptibility of the imagination, that too frequently indicates the absence of a more healthy feeling, and preys on itself. He has always excited my pity, often my admiration, but never my esteem; for, notwithstanding the charm of his style, and the fascination of its passionate eloquence, his works breathe a sickly and enervating sentimentality that, like the hot breeze of the Sirocco, weakens while it warms. All that we learn of Rousseau, from himself or his contemporaries, is little calculated to excite our sympathy.

The Memoirs of Madame d'Epinaÿ give a fearful portrait of him; and his petulant conduct to those who befriended him, and ingratitude to Hume, prove that he was as incapable of friendship, as he was unworthy of exciting it.

20th.—Who has ever passed a few days at Geneva, without visiting the magazine of Monsieur Baute? Not a lady, I dare to swear; and few gentlemen, I should think; for the young go to buy for themselves, and the old, to purchase for others. Precious

stones, set in every shape that taste and ingenuity can devise, are here displayed to tempt the selfish visitor, to adorn his own person; or the generous one, to decorate that of another. Here, absent friends are remembered, and the recollection marked by some votive gift; the purchaser anticipating, with pleasure, the gratification it will confer. Few, if any, have ever left the shop of M. Baute, without having considerably lightened their purses. Newly-married pairs, in all the uxoriousness of conjugal felicity, have not unfrequently testified their affection at the expense of their prudence; and affianced lovers have anticipated, at once their revenues, and their marriage gifts in this tempting *boutique*. The English flock as anxiously to this emporium of trinkets, as if London was deficient in such attractions: and many an aristocratic dame, whose *écrin* is filled with jewels of the purest lustre, will here lay in a stock of enamelled ornaments, whose lowness of price, she forgets, is occasioned by its want of intrinsic value. We ladies call every thing cheap in reference to price, rather than quality; notwithstanding that such seeming bargains are not always proved to be so in the end.

LAUSANNE, 22d.—The route from Geneva to Lausanne commands some fine prospects. On the left is a richly wooded country, interspersed with villas, and picturesque cottages; and on the right, is an uninterrupted view of the lake. Visited to-day the spot so long the residence of Gibbon, when he gave to the world his admirable “History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire;” a work that, for research and depth of thought, whatever may be its blemishes, has rarely been equalled, and never surpassed. On loitering through the walks, so often paced by him, I was forcibly reminded of the passage in his common-place book, which commemorates the completion of his arduous task; a passage in which all must sympathize, and which brings the author before us.

“It was on the day, or rather night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of eleven and twelve, that I wrote the last lines of the last page, in a summer-house in my garden. After laying down my pen, I took several turns in a *berceau*, or covered walk of acacias, which commands a prospect of the country, the lake, and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the water, and all nature was silent. I will not dissemble the first emotions of joy on the recovery of my freedom, and, perhaps, the establishment of my fame. But my pride was soon humbled, and a sober melancholy was spread over my mind, by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion; and that, whatsoever might be the future date of my history, the life of the historian might be short and precarious.”

There is something in these reflections, that appeals to the hearts of all; but they are still more touching when one stands on the spot where they were made. The country, the lake, the mountains, all remain as when he saw them, but he has passed away.—We are but actors on the busy stage of life. The scenes of the drama remain unchanged; but the actors, after a brief stay, give place to others, to be in turn replaced. Happy are they who, when the curtain drops, can feel they have well played their parts, and leave behind them a name that dies not!

If any ambition be excusable, it is that of wishing to leave a name which will endure. All that genius, valour, or wisdom ever achieved, or dreamt of achieving, has had but this object for its incentive; for all know that, constituted as the world is, not the possession of all three, were they ever united, could win the world's suffrage. Yes, it is for posthumous fame, that genius wastes the midnight lamp, and in wasting it, consumes too quickly the lamp of life; it is for it, that wisdom governs each quick impulse, and controls every passion; and that Valour braves a thousand times the death that opens to him its portals:

“ — Che seggenda in fluma
In fama non si vierso, ne sotto coltre,
Sanzu la qual ché sua vita consuma
Cotal vestigio in terra di se lascia
Qual fummo in aere, ed in acqua la schiuma.”

23d.—We visited the residence of our old and valued friend Mr. Kemble, who is at present at Rome. It is a most comfortable abode, commanding a view of the lake and surrounding scenery, and is admirably calculated for a retirement after a life of exertion; long may he live to enjoy it! Mr. Kemble is much, and deservedly, beloved and respected at Lausanne, where his amiability of manners, cultivation of mind, and unostentatious charities, have been justly estimated, and have already made him many friends. We viewed, with interest, the study of our old and absent friend, and the writing-table; on which more than one cordial proof of remembrance has been addressed to us since his residence here.—No one has done more to elevate the character of his profession than Mr. Kemble; whose honourable conduct, through life has won the respect of the good and wise, and whose dignified simplicity of manners has rendered him a welcome guest in the highest circles. I hope we shall meet in Rome; where he, who has so often and admirably personated Roman characters, will find himself identified with old associations. John Kemble, in the Forum, or at the Capitol, could hardly be looked on as a stranger.

24th.—Though prepared by the panorama of Lausanne, which was exhibited in London, for beholding a beautiful spot, the place

surpasses my expectations ; and though willing to avoid descriptions of scenery, which always fall short of the reality of what is really fine, it is difficult to repress the expression of the admiration this spot excites. How flat, stale, and unprofitable are words, to convey a sense of objects, that the eye takes in at a glance, and that the imagination delights to dwell on !

Nature, all powerful, beautiful nature, that makes herself felt in a moment, can never be so described, as to give to others the impression it has made on the beholder ; and I must be content with hoping to retain in the "mind's eye," some faint pictures of the glowing landscapes, which have delighted me, to cheer me when condemned to dwell amid less picturesque scenery. How mistaken is the notion, that the eye may become so accustomed to beautiful objects, as to cease to dwell on them with pleasure ! As far as I can judge by personal experience, this is not the case ; for, although it has been my lot to live in various residences, remarkable for the beauty of the views they have commanded, custom never pallied their attractions, or rendered me insensible to them. It only made me more fastidious in my taste, as the habitude of contemplating beautiful objects, whether in nature or in art, invariably does.

BERNE. 25th. — Of Berne, with its arcades, fountains, and statues, I shall say little, as they have been frequently described by every tourist who has visited it ; and to its walks, terraces, and views, no description could render justice. Nowhere is the Swiss costume seen to greater advantage than here ; and most picturesque is its effect, when worn by good-looking women, who, passing beneath the arcades, look like moving bouquets ; as the gay and varied colours of their dress, the bright ribbons mixed with their plaited tresses, and floating from their straw hats, ornamented with large bunches of the richest-hued flowers, meet the eye. The young men, too, with their collars turned back, their throats bare, their long hair, and those coats or frocks with full plaits, which remind one of the dresses seen in old pictures, add to the charm of this effect.—Half the beauty of Switzerland would be, in my opinion, lost, were its inhabitants to change their national costumes.

Never shall I forget the scene that presented itself, as we stood on the terrace-walk at the back of the cathedral. Not even the pencil of Claude Lorraine, which appeared as if dipped in sunbeams, and rainbow dyes, could portray that view ; or the effect of the setting sun upon it, as it threw its brilliant rays on the snow-capped Alps, and tinged the surrounding objects with a thousand rich and varied hues : the river, like a sheet of molten gold, flowing rapidly beneath. The cathedral is a fine gothic building,

erected in the early part of the fourteenth century ; it has windows of stained glass, and a baptismal font of dark marble, with well executed *bassi rilievi* representing scriptural subjects. The principal entrance is ornamented with several statues, which give it a good effect. It is judicious to place churches in fine situations, for the mind is never so much disposed to religion, as when brought in contact with the wonders and beauties of nature. The soul is lifted up from nature to nature's God ; and we feel that fullness of contentment, that overflow of gratitude to the Deity, which the contemplation of His works are so well calculated to excite, and which sends prayers spontaneously, from the heart to the lips. A deep love of nature, has in it something of a religious character. The feelings become softened, and the imagination elevated, while beholding the works of the Most High ; and our very aspirations, at such moments, are mingled with thanksgivings.

Bears seemed, and seem, to be viewed with as much reverence at Berne, as some animals were amongst the ancient Egyptians ; for not only do they form the principal decoration of the town, in sculpture, but four of them, of an unusually large size, daily attract crowds round the clean and comfortable abode provided for them, near the gate called *la Porte d'Aarberg* ; where their visitors supply them with cakes and apples, to their no small delight, and to that of the spectators. An ancient maiden lady, who had often beguiled some weary hours by witnessing the playful gambols and agility of former bears, at Berne, bequeathed no less than sixty thousand francs a year, for the maintenance of her favourites, and their successors. The French revolution, which extended its ravages beyond the Alps, reduced these animals, as well as those more sensible of such a calamity, to beggary ; but with better times, the inhabitants provided a fund for their wants.

There is no end to the legends recounted explanatory of the reason why the bear is looked upon as the patron of Berne. One to which the most faith is attached, relates, that when the city was founded, the Duke of Zaeringen, to whom it owes its existence, anxious to give it a name, assembled all the nobles of the neighbourhood at a grand feast, when it was agreed that, whatever animal was the first killed at the chase next day, should have the honour of being godfather to the city.—The bear was the victim ; and hence it is the supporter of the civic arms, ornaments several of the fountains, and graces one of the entrances to the town.

27th.—From Berne to Baden the country is rich and luxuriant, abounding in woods and forests, and the lands between them are highly cultivated. The farm-houses have an air of comfort and cleanliness that I never saw equalled, except in England ; but

there, they are much less picturesque. Baden is surrounded by a range of wooded mountains, and has the appearance of a panorama. At each entrance is a long, and wide, wooden bridge, roofed with tiles, in the side of which are unglazed windows, with green Venetian blinds, near to which are benches for the passengers to repose themselves. It is a common custom in this country to have the wooden bridges roofed, to prevent their being injured by the wet. By this precaution, they last a long time; and though the appearance on the exterior is gloomy, and unpicturesque, the interior is so clean and comfortable, offering a shade from the sun, and shelter from the rain, that it reconciles one to its want of pictorial effect. The baths of Baden are celebrated for their efficacy in rheumatic, and other complaints; they are about half a mile from the town. Independent of several private hot and cold baths, there is one large public one, for the use of the lower orders; in it we saw several individuals of both sexes, promiscuously bathing, attired in large dresses, tied round the throat, and apparently enjoying their ablution, if we might judge from the animation of their gesture, and their noisy mirth. A more disgusting scene I never beheld; for the faces of the bathers bore as visible signs of impure blood, as the ribaldry of their conversation and songs afforded proof of impure lives. The odour of the baths is detestable; and extends to a considerable distance beyond them. The houses look unclean and comfortless.—I can conceive no sojourn more repulsive than at Baden.

ZURICH, 29th.—The whole route to Zurich is through a most beautiful country. The cottages, which are scattered along the road, and have large wooden balconies, and jutting roofs, that advance sufficiently to shade them, add much to the beauty of the scenery, as do the picturesque costumes of the inhabitants. Zurich possesses many charms. Its situation is beautiful, divided by a fine lake, and surrounded by a country uniting all that is most attractive in nature and cultivation. Woods, mountains, fields, and gardens, with the richest vegetation; tasteful and clean houses, and a healthy and comely peasantry. The inn is excellent, standing close to the bridge, and its windows commanding a beautiful view of the lake. The walk on the ramparts, from which is seen one of the finest prospects imaginable, has some large trees that afford shade from the sun, to which other parts of this elevated terrace is much exposed. While admiring the scene we encountered an old man, whose snowy locks fell over cheeks still ruddy with health, and the expression of whose countenance was remarkable for its benevolence. He told us that he has the charge of the walk, and had himself planted the trees, beneath whose luxuriant foliage we were sheltered from the beams of a hot sun.

He is now in his 81st year, and is remarkably vigorous and cheerful. He seemed more gratified with our admiration of the trees he had planted, than by our donation to him; and dwelt with complacency on the storms they had resisted, and the shade they afforded.

We made a pilgrimage to the tomb of Gessner, and, perhaps, with as much true devotion, as most pilgrims visit the shrine of some departed saint. It is simple, and the exquisite beauty of the site is worthy of him to whom the monument is erected. It stands on a verdant spot, embosomed in trees, weeping-willows bending over it, and bounded on each side by the clear and rapid rivers, the Limmat and Sil, whose confluence occurs here. Nothing can surpass the view from this point; the glowing foliage of the woods around, the limpid sparkling water, on which glide many a sunny sail, luxuriant gardens, and pointed steeples, seen rising through the trees, form a landscape whose beauties must be felt, but never can be described.—The tomb bears an inscription from Gessner's beautiful and pathetic "Death of Abel." Had this poet, who so well understood and painted the attributes of nature, that deity which he worshipped, selected a spot in which his mortal remains should find a resting-place, he never could have found a more lovely one than that which is now graced by his tomb. With what interest did I view his bust! which is said to be an excellent resemblance. As I gazed on the lineaments of that venerable face, and remembered of how many tears his "Death of Abel" had beguiled my days of childhood, as also the touching simplicity of his Idyls, which had so often transported me into the ideal regions of pastoral life, ere yet I knew aught of the actual world, or its delusions, save what books afforded me, I gave to his memory the tribute which had formerly been won from me by his imagination. But there was more of self in this tear; for it was half caused by regret for the loss of that freshness of feeling, which an intercourse with the world but too often destroys, and of which we recall the remembrance, as of a buried friend, lost in early youth, whom we pitied for leaving this beautiful earth, the happiness to be found on which, we had not then learnt to doubt.—The Idyls of Gessner possess a charm for me, that I have rarely discovered in other books. The sentiments seem to emanate less from the head than the heart; and the touching pathos of his sketches conveys the conviction that his own home furnished him with those scenes of primitive peace and affection, which he so loved to paint. The family of Gessner were worthy of him; for his wife realized the fair ideal of a poet's wife, cheering and animating his labours, and rewarding them by her smiles. She was the muse who inspired him: and his works form her best panegyric. People do not often reflect,

how much the writings of even the greatest authors may be influenced by the persons with whom they live; and, consequently, are not sufficiently grateful to the memory of those individuals to whose bland influence many productions which charm us, owe their attractions. With a less amiable sharer of his hearth, Gessner might never have written his *Idyls*: peaceful then be the rest of her who inspired them!

Lavater, also, was a native of Zurich, and met his death by the hand of a French soldier, in the endeavour to protect one of his friends from his violence. Here was he visited by his friend Zimmerman, who has commemorated the circumstance by an animated description of the lake and its environs. One can fancy these two amiable visionaries, seated on the terrace of Lavater's house, enjoying the beautiful prospect it commanded; the latter perhaps occupied in analysing the physiognomy of his friend, in order to establish some hypothesis: and the former, notwithstanding his taste for seclusion, finding how agreeable it was to have a companion to whom he might exclaim, "How sweet is solitude!" Though phrenology has superseded physiognomy, in this all-changeable age, it is difficult, if not impossible, to divest oneself of the impression conveyed by an agreeable or disagreeable countenance. I am not disposed to adopt the whole of Lavater's system, which, like that of most systems, is carried too far; verifying the old adage, that "they who attempt to prove too much, prove nothing:" but we all must feel the power of attraction that a fine face possesses, and *vice versa*. By a fine face, I do not mean mere symmetry of features and beauty of complexion; but that harmony of both, joined to an expression of candour, intelligence, and goodness, that more than supplies their absence—countenances which the Italians designate by the phrase "*sympatica*," and which attract our good will at the first glance. In most, if not all, hypothetical systems, there is much to be rejected; but unfortunately the founders claim implicit faith for *all* their tenets: and the sceptical, following the other extreme, reject all, because they cannot believe all. I once witnessed a meeting between a phrenologist, a believer in chiromancy, and one who pronounced that the feet were the true medium by which characters could be accurately judged. Each of these individuals was persuaded that his own system alone was infallible, and that of the others absurd and erroneous. One of the company present proposed, that each of the theorists should give a proof of his scientific skill; and I saw the phrenologist submit a hand to one, and a foot to the other disputant, while he was examining and comparing the heads of both, searching, probably, for the peculiar organ, whose development might serve to elucidate their prevailing propensities. Many character-

istics of each were pointed out, in the course of the examination ; and ludicrous as was the exhibition, it left the impression on my mind, that some judgment of the individual character might be deduced from the head, hands, and feet, though not at all to the extent claimed by the founders of these systems.

30th.—Zurich is not without considerable pretensions, as is evinced by its styling itself the Athens of Switzerland.—It boasts of having given birth, even so early as the fourteenth century, to one hundred and forty poets, of whom Roger Maness in that century, wrote an account, which is now as obsolete as the poets it was meant to transmit to posterity. How few of the works, professedly bequeathed to it, does posterity accept ! Nevertheless every writer aspires to conciliate it, seemingly unconscious that excellence, alone, can insure its favour. The cathedral at Zurich, said to have been built in 697, has nothing remarkable to boast of, and had lately been subjected to the barbarous operation of a thorough white-washing, on the exterior and interior, which gave it a most unseemly appearance. The Carolinian library, founded in the thirteenth century, has lost many of the treasures of antiquity that it is said once to have contained, but still retains the MSS. of Zuinglius, and other reformers, in sixty folio volumes, with many rare and curious black-letter books.

The town library, founded in 1628, had more attraction for us, as it boasts the possession of three letters of Lady Jane Grey, to Henricus Bulingerus ; one written in Latin, in a very fine Italian hand ; the others in German, and all signed with her name. The accounts handed down to us, of the beauty, grace, talents, and extraordinary acquirements of this lovely and unfortunate being, never made so deep an impression on me, as while looking at her beautiful penmanship. I seemed to see her, as her preceptor Roger Ascham found and described her (when he paid her an unexpected visit), reading Plato, while the rest of the family were occupied with the chase in the park. Her gentle voice seemed to sound in my ear, uttering those words in answer to his enquiry, of why she also was not engaged in the sports :—"The sports they are enjoying, are but as a shadow, compared to the pleasure which I derive from the sublime author I am perusing." The rare union of such remarkable personal beauty, piety, modesty, and profound erudition, at a period when learning was as a sealed well to her sex, would always have rendered Lady Jane Grey the most interesting female character of her day. But her tragical death, and the fortitude with which she met it, stamp her as a heroine, in the best and most exalted sense of the word. It was remarked by one of our party, that had Lady Jane Grey been less beautiful and young, her accomplishments and misfortunes would have excited a less

warm degree of sympathy in our minds. I am afraid there was more truth in the observation, than reason is willing to acknowledge. But we are all, more or less, the slaves to externals; youth and beauty must have their influence; and works that, by their freshness, prove how recently they have been formed by the All-powerful hand that creates all, must have more attractions than those which have been so long fashioned, as to have lost the traces of their divine origin. Had Mary Stuart bowed her head to the block, some ten or fifteen years sooner, ere yet its silken honours had been blanched by the ruthless hand of time, how much more sympathy would her fate have called forth! Old heroines are an anomaly, and excite little pity, even in the hearts of those who have arrived at similar years of discretion, the epidermis of whose hearts, like that of the faces of elderly ladies, has lost its delicacy; so that the power of suffering in them is as much blunted, as the capability of causing suffering is impaired in the others. We look with interest always, and with admiration often, on the ruin of all fine objects, save the ruin of a beautiful woman. Alas! for old beauties! they must abdicate in time.

The town library at Zurich, contains a curious letter from Frederick of Prussia, to the Professor H. Muller, relative to a collection of Swiss songs, of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, which the professor published in 1784, and dedicated to Her Majesty. It appears, that Frederick the Great, found nothing to admire in the collection; and candidly expressed his opinion to their editor, with a *naïveté* and *brusquerie*, very characteristic of that monarch. This library also contains the "Psalterium Davidis," in Greek MS., the vellum purple, letters silver, and the titles in gold. It has suffered much from age; but some of the leaves are still perfect, and offer a fine specimen of the splendour of the decorations of such works in former days.

SCHAUFHAUSEN, *October 1st.*—The water-fall at this romantic spot is much less grand than we expected; but the beauty of the scenery around it is remarkable. The Rhine flows majestically along, bounded at each side by luxuriant vineyards, fertile fields, and rich woods, crowned by the mountains, fading into the distant horizon, until they are lost in the clouds.—The foam of the cascade rises over the landscape, like a silver gauze veil; and forms a brilliant contrast with the vivid green of the river. The rushing sound of the water, which hurries on with resistless force to its destination, canopied by clouds of foam that sparkle in the sunshine, has a magical effect; and one could gaze for hours on the scene, indulging in the vague reveries it inspires. There seems to be a deep and mysterious sympathy between our souls and the sublime and beautiful in nature, which even a glance awakens. We gaze

on such scenes with a pleasure, that the finest work of art never conveyed; we feel reluctant to leave them; and often recur to them in memory, with a regret like that which we give to a friend we may never again behold.

LUCERNE, 4th.—From Schaufhausen back through Zurich, to Lucerne, a lovely, but confused mass of woods, mountains, lakes, and vineyards, with cottages of the most picturesque forms, present themselves, like the varying images in dreams; and like them, leaving but indistinct though pleasant recollections in the mind. I must except some magnificent forests of pine and oak, which stand forth so pre-eminently in the scenery, as to form distinct features in it; and the pretty village of Egliseau, with its bridge, which commands a varied and beautiful prospect. Lucerne, rising from its lovely lake, as if at the command of a magician, surrounded by its fortifications of the seventeenth century, which look insignificant compared with those natural ones, formed by the Almighty hand, some of which rise as if to join the clouds that float over them, constitutes one of the most interesting views I have yet seen. On the right and left are the Righi and Pilate mountains; the first, covered with verdure and hamlets, and the second, sterile and arid, with only a few stunted tufts of brown and withered vegetation, scattered over its naked and gloomy surface. The town is peculiarly clean, and the picturesque costumes of the female inhabitants add much to the beauty of the general effect.

5th.—The Fountain of the Lion, which we visited to-day, is a simple but sublime monument, erected by the Swiss to the memory of their countrymen, who fell on the memorable 10th of August, in defence of a monarchy, whose subversion their devoted bravery could not retard. It represents a lion of colossal dimensions, cut out of a solid rock, and admirably executed. The lion is pierced by a lance, the point of which rests in the wound, and in expiring covers with his body a shield, decorated with *fleurs-de-lys*. The inscription is, *Helvetiorum fidei ac virtuti*. The names of the officers and soldiers who lost their lives, the first, twenty-six in number, and the second, seven hundred and sixty, are inscribed. This monument, with the limpid lake, which bathes the rock of which it is formed, and the bright verdure surrounding it, presents a most striking picture. Its guardian dwelt with no little self-complacency on the bravery and fidelity of his countrymen, and more than insinuated the wisdom, if not the necessity, of Louis the Eighteenth retaining a few regiments of them always near his person, in case of "accidents," as he quaintly expressed himself; "for he, like his good, but unfortunate brother, may yet require their aid, in a nation so fickle in its attachments, as the one where he reigns."

SECHERON, 8th.—We are again at Geneva, which has as yet lost none of its beauty, although the autumn has tinged the foliage all around with its golden tints, and given a coldness to the air, that renders warm shawls a necessary accompaniment in all excursions. We went on the lake to-day, and were rowed by Maurice, the boatman employed by Lord Byron, during his residence here. Maurice speaks of the noble poet with enthusiasm, and loves to relate anecdotes of him. He told us, that Lord Byron never entered his boat without a case of pistols, which he always kept by him; a very superfluous ceremony, as Maurice seemed to think. He represented him as generally silent and abstracted, passing whole hours on the lake absorbed in reflection, and then suddenly writing, with extreme rapidity, in a book he always had with him. He described his countenance, to use his own phrase, as “*magnifique*,” and different from that of all other men, by its pride (*fiercé* was the word he used). “He looked up at the heavens,” said Maurice, “as if he thought it was his proper place, or rather, as if he accused it of keeping him here; for he is a man who fears nothing, *above* or *below*. He passed whole nights on the lake, always selecting the most boisterous weather for such expeditions. I never saw a rough evening set in, while his lordship was at Diodati,” continued Maurice, “without being sure that he would send for me; and the higher the wind, and the more agitated the lake, the more he enjoyed it. We have often remained out eighteen hours at a time, and in very bad weather.—Lord Byron is so good a swimmer, that he has little to dread from the water.—Poor Mr. Shelley,” resumed Maurice, “ah! we were all sorry for him!—He was a different sort of man; so gentle, so affectionate, so generous; he looked as if he loved the sky over his head and the water on which his boat floated. He would not hurt a fly, nay, he would save everything that had life; so tender and merciful was his nature. He was too good for this world; and yet, lady, would you believe it, some of his countrymen, whom I have rowed in this very boat, have tried to make me think ill of him; but they never could succeed, for we plain people judge by what we *see*, and not by what we *hear*.” This was, in language somewhat different, the sentiment of our boatman’s account of Byron and Shelley, two of the most remarkable spirits of our age. He seemed to admire the first, but it is evident he loved the second. How intellectual must the intercourse of two such minds have been; and how advantageous to Byron must have been the philanthropy, and total freedom from bitterness of Shelley. Even the unworldliness of Shelley’s mind must have possessed an additional charm in soothing the irritability of Byron’s too sensitive and misanthropic disposition; soured and disgusted by the conventional habits, and artificial society, from

the trammels of which he had but lately broken, with the wounds which it had inflicted on his feelings still rankling. Maurice pointed out to us La Villa Diodati, at Coligny, where Byron resided; and the house in which Shelley dwelt. To-morrow we leave Geneva.—I shall quit it with regret; for independent of the many attractions its beautiful lake and scenery furnish, the high cultivation of the country in the environs, the luxuriance of the fields, trees, and neatly-trimmed hedges, and the fine cows and sheep browsing about, remind me continually of dear England: while in France, the want of such objects gives a strikingly disagreeable aspect to the general face of the country.

11th.—From Geneva to Nantua, the country is rich, and the scenery fine. The Rhône winds rapidly through a valley, bounded at each side by stupendous mountains and rocks, interspersed with vineyards, and groups of large trees. At the French frontier stands a fortress, of good appearance, and most romantically situated. I never pass one of those artificial barriers without reflecting with complacency on the natural one, that protects our own cherished England,—that gem, set in the sea, as if to preserve it from all foes; save those who can surpass her sons in bravery, and nautical skill. But that such can ever be found, it would be profane for one of her daughters to fear.

No one who passes Bellegarde, should neglect to visit a natural curiosity in its neighbourhood, well worthy of attention. It consists of a narrow defile, bounded on each side by steep rocks overgrown by trees and shrubs. It was formerly the bed of a river, which was level with the tops of the rocks, as is proved by the marks still left on them; but, by degrees, the river diminished to a narrow and shallow, but very rapid streamlet, which rushes with great impetuosity through natural arches, formed in the rocks by its own action. There are many fissures in the sides, from which descend cascades, sparkling in the air, with various prismatic colours, as the beams of the sun strike upon them; and which then fall, with many a murmur, into the natural reservoirs formed in the stony bed of the river. Some of these basins are so large, as to look like small lakes; and on their unruffled surfaces, the overhanging rocks and foliage are reflected, as in a mirror. The descent to this place is difficult, and somewhat dangerous, from its steepness and the extreme slipperiness of the path. A bridge, of a single arch, is thrown across the defile, and has a very picturesque effect. The loud and sonorous murmurs of the water, rushing from the many fissures of the rocks, and the loneliness of the place, impress the mind with feelings of tender melancholy. We behold the change that Time, the destroyer,

has wrought here; and are reminded of that which he is imperceptibly, but unceasingly, effecting on all things.

“Ainsi tout change, ainsi tout passe;
Ainsi nous-mêmes nous passons,
Sans laisser, hélas! plus de trace
Que cette barque où nous glissons,
Sur cette mer où tout s’efface.”

LYONS, 13th.—This place possesses many souvenirs of the past; and Mr. Artaud, to whom we fortunately brought letters of introduction, is one of the best cicerones an inquisitive traveller could have.—Here, Mark Antony, Augustus, Agrippa, Claudius, Caligula, Nero and Trajan have sojourned, and helped to beautify the ancient Lugdunum, as Lyons was formerly called. Many remains of their stupendous works still remain, to delight the antiquarian, and furnish food for contemplation to the philosopher. But even to me, a woman, and, sooth to say, no philosopher, the wrecks of antiquity have a peculiar attraction; and when the site of the once proud and gorgeous palace of the ferocious Caligula was pointed out to me, now occupied by an asylum for lunatics, less furious and vicious than he, it required not the knowledge of the sage, or of the philosopher to reflect on the mutability of all earthly grandeur, and the frailty of human nature.

On viewing places, with which the objects of our juvenile admiration or reprobation are associated, the historical impressions of our childhood cease to be vague and indefinite, as heretofore. We identify the actors with the scenes where they performed some of their parts in the drama of life; and the images and ideas, long stored in memory, become distinct and vivid. Lyons has, perhaps, experienced more of the reverses of the fickle goddess Fortune, than most other cities; having, a century after its foundation, rivalled the most flourishing capitals of Gaul. We have the authority of Seneca and Tacitus, that it was destroyed by fire, during the reign of Nero; under that of Severus, in the eighth century, it was almost depopulated and laid in ruins by the Saracens; and in 1628, a severe visitation of the plague made a fearful havoc in it. But under none of these calamities could its misfortunes have been greater than during 1793, when it was exposed to the ruthless fury of the Conventional army; of whose brutal excesses it still bears many a melancholy memorial, in its dilapidated houses and ruined buildings. It is calculated that above three thousand of the inhabitants fell victims to the siege, and to the guillotine; and it was only the death of the sanguinary monster Robespierre, that put an end to the carnage.

14th.—We spent some hours at the Museum to-day, and saw, among other interesting Roman antiquities, the celebrated bronze

tablets, discovered in 1528, on which are inscribed the harangue made by the Emperor Claudius in favour of Lyons. There were originally three tablets, but two only have been found. On comparing them with the harangue of Claudius, as given in the eleventh book of the *Annals* of Tacitus, it will be found that the feeble style of the emperor has been strengthened by the retouching of the historian. There are several fine busts and sarcophagi in the Museum. I noticed one sarcophagus of stone, made to contain two bodies, and, as the inscription stated, intended as a receptacle for a married pair. One of the antiquities in the Museum most esteemed by the virtuosi, is the leg of a bronze horse, which is truly admirable in its proportions and execution. The history attached to this fine fragment is curious: it is reported that, for above fifteen hundred years, the watermen and fishermen had remarked a huge substance in the Saône, between the wooden bridges, which they from time immemorial denominated "the broken iron pot," and they were in the habit of laying hold of it with their boat-hooks, to assist them to pull against the stream. On the 4th of February 1766, the river being frozen, and being at the same time unusually low, a boat-builder, of the name of Bartholomew Laurent, observed that what had hitherto been supposed to be an iron pot, was something of much larger dimensions, and determined to get it up. He called in the assistance of some porters, and with ropes they endeavoured to move it. After many efforts they dragged out this fine specimen of art, which they carried to the Hôtel-de-Ville, and received from the provost a couple of louis as a reward.

Two mosaic pavements, of extraordinary beauty, the colours as fresh as if but newly formed, and the design and execution faultless, were shown to us. They were found in the vicinity of Lyons. The subject of one is thought to be a burlesque representation of the gymnastic exercises; the other, which is in perfect preservation, represents a chariot race in the circus; it is above twenty feet long. A long catalogue of treasures, in marble, bronze, and terra cotta, all, and each, highly interesting, were pointed out to us by M. Artaud, the director of the Museum, to whose taste, and indefatigable zeal and activity, it owes much of its celebrity. Its valuable contents are arranged, and classed with a precision, that greatly facilitates their inspection; while its perfect cleanliness and ventilation render it a most agreeable morning lounge. M. Artaud possesses a valuable collection of antiquities in his private apartments, which those, who have the advantage of his acquaintance, are permitted to inspect: and his profound knowledge and love of the fine arts, and unerring judgment in antiquities, render his society a rich treat to all who have the pleasure of enjoying it.

15th.—Two considerable rivers, the Saône and the Rhône, traverse or border Lyons in its whole length. The first, which is slow in its course, bathes the base of the mountain Fourvière, on the lower part of which many of the houses are situated, and then bends gracefully from the Faubourg of Vaise, to that of St. Irène : while the Rhône flows rapidly, and almost in a straight line, separating the town from the promenade of Britteaux, and from the Faubourg la Guillotière. Its junction with the Saône occurs at the southern extremity of Lyons, and below the Allée Perruche. There is no river whose banks present more beautiful landscapes than the Rhône, which in its rapid course, may be likened to some gay votary of pleasure, hastening from one scene of beauty to another, scarcely pausing to admire one, ere he seeks some newer charm.

The city is commanded by two mountains, that of Fourvière, which is on the right bank of the Saône ; and St. Sébastien, which rises to the north, between the Rhône and the Saône. The streets are for the most part narrow, and, like the generality of those of French towns, extremely dirty. The squares are on a grand scale ; but the houses appear in such bad condition, as do also the public buildings, that they present a miserable contrast to the style in which they were projected. The mountain Fourvière, which crowns the rows of houses built against its base, offers a variety of rural spots, groves, rocks, vineyards, and orchards, interspersed with tasteful villas ; and its vicinity to a large commercial city is of incalculable advantage. The church of Notre Dame, and the house, called Antiquailles, are two of the objects to which a cicerone leads a stranger : the first of these buildings occupies the place of the ancient Forum Trajani, or Forum Veneris ; and the second, that of the palace of the Roman emperors. It was named Antiquailles, from the number of antiquities discovered on the spot, and is at present, as before stated, an Asylum for Lunatics.

The beautiful altar, discovered in 1705 on the mountain of Fourvière, is worthy of notice : it has three fronts, the principal one is ornamented with a bull's head, decorated with fillets for the sacrifice, and has part of an inscription ; the second front has the head of a ram, which antiquarians assert, proves that this bull offering was similar to that offered in memory of Atys, to whom that animal was sacrificed ; the third front bears the crooked sword of sacrifice, made in the form of the harp, with which Perseus cut off Medusa's head. Over the sword is the following inscription, which I copied for the benefit of antiquarians :—

CVIVS MESONYCTIVM
FACTVM EST. V. ID. DEC.

The other inscription, which is very legible, is as follows :

TAVRO BOLIOMATRISD. M. I. D.
Quod factum est ex Imperio Maties D.

DEVN.

Pro Salve Imperatoris CAES. T. AELI
Hadriani Antonini AVC. PII P.

Liberorumque EIVS

Et. Status Coloniae LVGUDVN.

L. AEMILIUS CARTVS IIIIVIR AVGIHM
DENDROPHORVS

VORON FECIT.

(Here is the figure of a bull's head.)

VIRES EXCEPITET AVATICANOTRAS

TVLIT ARA ET BVCRANIVM

SVO INTENDIO CONSACRAVIT

SACERDOTE.

Q. SAMMIO SECVNDO AB. XV VIRIS

OCCEBO ET CORONI EXORNATO

CVI SANCTISSIMVS ORDO LVGDVNE

PERPETVIATEM SACERDOTI DE CREVNI

APP. ANNIO. ATILO BRADVAT CLODVI BIOIT

VARO COS

L. D. D. D.

The quadrangular court belonging to the Museum, is filled with antiquities, in alto, and basso rilievo, and with various inscriptions, inserted in the walls. Of the wrecks of former ages, in the vicinity of Lyons, none is more interesting than the remains of the celebrated aqueduct constructed by Mark Antony, to furnish the inhabitants with water. Their extent is estimated at more than thirteen leagues, owing to their winding, though there are only eight in a straight line. Six of the arcades of the aqueducts are still standing near the gate of St. Irenæus, and add much to the picturesque effect of the view. The country through which the aqueduct passed, being intersected by a number of valleys, which prevented its being carried in a direct line, it was found expedient to erect several bridges; the finest of which now remaining, are those that form the tenth and eleventh series, of which sixty-two are still in preservation.

The ancient castle of Francheville, now in ruins, with some other gothic buildings, form a fine contrast with the Roman remains. The roads are bordered with hedges of hawthorn, privet, wild cherry-trees, and honey-suckle, and the hills around are covered by vineyards; while the rivers are seen winding along, like silver serpents, through the rich fields, at one moment visible, and

then hid by a wood or vineyard. The snow-crowned Alps, bounding the horizon, complete this very fine picture.

The silk manufactories here appear in a flourishing condition. Several specimens of rich furniture, in brocaded satin and silk, were shown us. But the prices were high, and the materials not so superior to our own, as might be expected from the much greater demand in France than in England. I am persuaded that, with due encouragement, our silk manufactories might, in a short time, compete with those of France; and I trust we may soon be patriotic enough to give to our artisans that encouragement; instead of, as now, employing the looms at Lyons, and expending hundreds abroad that might be productive of so much beneficial influence at home. I saw several orders for hundreds of yards of silk furniture, from many individuals of my acquaintance; and they were displayed with an air that indicated a belief, that England could not supply similar productions. With the industry and skill of our mechanics, there is nothing which they could not, with proper encouragement, effect. Why then, should they not meet with it, from those whose duty it is to offer it?

VIENNE, 17th.—So here we are at Vienne, one of the most ancient cities of the Gauls, and a place once remarkable, though now little so, except for the picturesque beauty of its situation, and the interesting fragments of antiquity in its vicinity. M. Artaud recommended our sojourning here for some time, to explore its environs, which he says are charming. But the inn looks so unpromising, that I fear we must abandon the project. The entrance to Vienne offers one of the most striking scenes imaginable. St. Colombe, divided from it by the bright and limpid Rhône, with many a white sail, that bird-like, seems to skim the blue waters on which it glides, is seen to the right; and on the left, hills covered with vineyards, many of them crowned by ruins of towers and fortresses, with large rocks peeping through foliage, as luxuriant as the glowing skies that overhang their leafy canopies. All here is beautiful, while one keeps out of the miserable streets in the interior of the town; but on entering the vile inn, the only one here, all is changed. Filthy stairs, dingy and dirty rooms; attendants, possessing all the attributes of the ancient Locrians; and beds, in which one is compelled to reflect, feelingly, on the disadvantages of animated nature; repasts, where the want of cleanliness is obvious; and noises, various and appalling, as if chaos had come again. The grave is said to level all distinctions; and the same observation may well be applied to the "*table ronde*," the name of our own, for, no matter what may be the rank or station of its guests, they are all hurled into one focus; all receive the same attention, or rather want of attention, the same bad fare,

and must submit to the same system of imposition. The landlady seems to act on the charitable system of never turning away the weary traveller from her door, and of always taking the stranger in. We have engaged nearly the whole inn for ourselves and suite, at an exorbitant price; the proprietor reserving, beside those occupied by the family, one bedroom and salon, for the use of travellers. The stable and *cuisine*, which are only divided by a narrow passage through which the stairs pass, vie in odour and noise. The landlady seemed no less offended, than surprised, on our expressing disapprobation of her inn; and with a toss of the head, “wondered what we could want more than was to be found at the *table ronde*.” A *table d’hôte* is kept in the house, at which the passengers of the diligences dine, with the landlady, and our servants; and if we may judge from the noise and laughter we hear, no inconsiderable hilarity prevails at these *repasts*. My *femme-de-chambre* told me, that the French people only laughed at the bad fare, which made the English cross; an observation highly characteristic of the distinction between the two people, though she who made it, viewed it only as a proof of the blamable want of fastidiousness of the French.

18th.—A barouche, with six inside and four outside passengers, arrived heré at a late hour last night, and, to our perfect surprise, the courier was told that there was accommodation for them. They were conducted to the reserved bedroom, containing four beds, the distribution of which the new-comers were left to decide; but males and females, masters and servants, were all expected to share not only the same room, but the same pillows, as in the days of patriarchal simplicity. The greater part of a supper ordered for the hungry travellers, was devoured by a ravenous dog, a privileged favourite in this ill-ordered establishment, and whose propensity to theft, the waiter assured us, frequently occasioned similar accidents.

I mounted my horse with great pleasure to-day, in order to explore the interesting environs of Vienne, which are only accessible on foot, or on horseback. Some of the tracks we passed, require no small portion of courage to encounter; many of them being steep and dangerous, with a precipice on one side, at the bottom of which rushes a foaming stream; and on the other, a ridge of steep and rocky mountains, rising abruptly, and only leaving space between their base and the precipice, for the precarious passage of a single horse. We were amply repaid by the views which the acclivity of the mountain presented. They were various and beautiful; and the picturesque ruins of the castle of Mont Léans, which we quitted our horses to explore, form a fine feature in the landscape. The castle of Mont Léans stands on a

rocky eminence; the base of which is washed by a rapid and winding stream. It is surrounded by wooded mountains, and these are overtopped on its right by the snow-crowned Alps and the Jura, and on the left by the steep and picturesque mountains of Dauphiné. Many a glowing vineyard and verdant valley is seen from the romantic ruins of Mont Léans; amid which wild shrubs and brushwood have sprung up in abundance, adding much to the beauty of the old castle. In many parts, a huge rock is seen rearing its giant head against the walls, as if to support the mouldering battlements, and wreaths of ivy and wild flowers interlace them together. The castle is supposed to have been built at the time of the Crusades, and must have been a place of considerable strength. No trace of any road to it remains; and it is only accessible to the pedestrian or equestrian.

The château de Roussillon, and the tower that stands on the mountain of St. Colombe, as also the château de Seyssuel, formerly strong fortresses, now add considerably to the beauty of the scenery; which offers as attractive subjects to the pencil of the artist or amateur, as can be found in France. The peasantry we encountered in our ride to-day, are peculiarly stupid, and nearly as wanting in intelligence as the flocks they tend.—They speak a *patois*, which was as incomprehensible to the ears of the French gentlemen, who accompanied us, as to ours; nor could they understand the questions addressed to them by their compatriots.

Those who are acquainted only with the post-routes in France, can form no notion of the romantic beauty of some of the scenery in the interior of the country. But the badness of the roads and inns in remote places, exclude all but hardy equestrians, or pedestrians, who fear not vile paths and worse inns.

19th.—We rode to Condrieux to-day. The town is about three leagues from Vienne, and is situated on the opposite side of the Rhône, which is crossed by large boats, that are worked by ropes sustained by cranes, erected at each side of the river. These boats are of considerable dimensions, and continually passing and repassing, freighted with passengers in gay costumes, they add greatly to the animation of the picture.—On leaving Vienne, we proceeded along the banks of the river for about four miles, through a country well wooded, highly cultivated, and diversified by hills, rocks, and mountains, which are reflected in the bright waters of the Rhône. We crossed the river, and proceeded by the St. Colombe side, until we reached Condrieux, passing through scenery even still more attractive than that presented on the Vienne side of the water. In one part, an island is formed by two rapid streams, rushing down from the mountains, and falling into the Rhône. This verdant isle is rich in dwarf trees and luxuriant

shrubs, which bend, as if to refresh their foliage in the limpid streams that surround them; and as the sun sheds its brilliant beams on this fairy isle, and sparkles on the ripples of the water, it resembles a vast emerald, set in diamonds.

The town of Condrieux is mean, and the houses of the commonest description. The female inhabitants were seated in groups, on stone benches in front of their houses, plying the distaff, knitting, or working, and all singing or talking; while their children, nearly in a state of nudity, gambolled around them. They appeared much surprised, and not a little amused, at seeing a lady on a side-saddle; as females here mount in a most patriarchal mode, that is, precisely as the men do, of which we have already had frequent specimens. The women were nearly all dark-haired, with sallow, or brown complexions, most of them without any covering on their heads, and wearing brown corsets, coloured petticoats, and gaudy handkerchiefs; their countenances were lively, but not one among the many we saw had the slightest pretensions to good looks. The children were very plain; but seemed to possess an unusual degree of activity and animation, and, with their mothers, produced a most stunning noise.

The old boatman of Condrieux offered an amusing picture of the mobility of the French character. He gave us an epitome of his life, alternately laughing and crying, as the incidents he related happened to be of a comic or serious nature. The transitions from one emotion to the other were so rapid, that before one could display even a decent composure of countenance in sympathy with his sorrowful reminiscences, he burst into a hearty laugh at the recollection of some amusing adventure. The quickness of his sensibility does not, however, appear to have impaired his health; for, though at the advanced age of seventy, he is hale and active, still preserves his teeth, and thick locks, of snowy whiteness, fall over his ruddy cheeks.—He seemed sorry that our arrival at the opposite side of the river curtailed his history, the sequel of which he was very anxious to recount, and more than insinuated a desire, that we should wait for its completion. When we excused ourselves, on the plea of being pressed for time, he shook his head, and shrugged his shoulders, muttering,—“It is always so, people are always in such a hurry, that they never have time to hear my story; but let them hurry ever so much, time will overtake them; ay, and death too, and then the worm alone will tickle their ears. Yes, I have seen many a one in such a hurry, but they were forced to stop after all, just as my poor Pierre—God give rest to his soul!” The story of “poor Pierre,” we left to be repeated to some passengers who entered the boat after we left it; and the donation we offered to the garrulous boatman, did not appear to con-

sole him for our inattention to his narrative. On the road to Condrieux, at the St. Colombe side of the water, we passed the vineyards from which the celebrated "vin de Côte Rotie" is produced, and which is conveyed to Paris by the river that waters their banks.

20th.—A wet day, and louring clouds, which indicate that the rain will continue. No ride this afternoon!—what is to be done?—write down the *résumé* of my studies this morning, in the clever work of Mons. Rey, and antiquarian researches of the last two days. Never did neophyte commence the study of any science under better preceptors, than I have the good fortune to possess for my antiquarian lore, in M. Artaud and the Comte D'Hautpoul. Both have explored every ruin in this interesting place, and perused every work written upon, or that bears a reference to them; so that I enjoy the best oral as well as ocular information.—*Allons donc*, to describe the ancient Vienne.

Vienne, or the Vienna Allobrogem, the most ancient city of the Gauls, is in Dauphiné, in the department of the Isère, and on the banks of the Rhône. It is of considerable extent, and beautifully situated, bounded by steep hills, covered with vineyards, intersected by large rocks, and backed by stupendous mountains, whose blue summits seem to mingle with the skies, the colour of which they emulate. The clear waters of the majestic Rhône urge their course rapidly along, dividing Vienne from St. Colombe, and bearing many a vessel on their limpid surface. Various have been the conjectures and accounts, given by historians, as to the probable founder of this ancient city. Allobrox, king of the Celts, Venerius, who was an exile from Africa, and the Cretans, have been in turn cited by Chorier, in his researches relative to Vienne, while Strabo affirms that it was the capital of the Allobroges, by whom it is most probable it was built. These warlike and powerful people occupied the country between the Rhône, the Isère, and the Alps. Pliny, speaking of the passage of Hannibal through the country of the Gauls, says, that this experienced warrior was afraid to approach the country of the Allobroges. Cæsar classes the habitation of the Gauls under the names, *Vici* and *Oppida*; the first were the hamlets, or villages, occupied in times of peace, and were generally placed near a wood, or on the bank of a river, the latter were the fortresses, which were only resorted to when danger menaced. Strabo asserts that Vienne was nothing more than a village, though he admits that it was the capital of the Gauls; who probably had no cities previously to their subjugation by the Romans. The Allobroges were first conquered by Domitius, then by Ænobarbus, and afterwards by Fabius Maximus, who assumed the name of Allobrogensis; and Vienne, and its territories, at that epoch became a part of Gaule Narbonnoise, Gallia Narbonnensis.

Julius Cæsar, in order to ensure the peaceable possession of the country which he had conquered, established colonies; but the Allobroges, profiting by the troubles occasioned by the tragical death of that great man, revolted, and drove the colonists out of Vienne. The fugitives retired to the other side of the Rhône, complaining of the outrages which they had received; on which the senate sent an order to Plancus to build a city at the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône. To this circumstance Lyons owes its origin. The dissensions which agitated the Romans prevented them from punishing the revolted Allobroges, who still retained the title of colony with all its prerogatives. This is proved in the *Digest de Censibus*, where we learn that Vienne and Lyons enjoyed the Salique right, which exempted them from all tributes. Augustus is supposed to have been the restorer of the colony of Vienne, and the temple which the Viennese erected in honour of his wife, was a mark of their gratitude. By the following inscription, preserved in the Museum at Lyons, we are informed that the Sexumvirate of Vienne and Lyons were united in the same person:—"Titus Cassius Mysticus, high-priest of Lyons and Vienne, erected this monument to Sextus Julius Helius, T. P. his kinsman." The bronze tablets of Claudius, found at Lyons in 1528, give an idea of the flourishing state of Vienne, and the consideration in which it was held by the masters of the world, who fortified, and embellished it with many noble buildings and beautiful monuments, which, even in their ruins, manifest their pristine splendour. In the time of the Romans, a magnificent palace was built at Vienne, and inhabited in turn by the emperors. The city was also considerably increased, and extended to the Place de l'Aiguille, or Pyramidical Cenotaph, covering the plain of St. Colombe on the other side of the Rhône, and likewise a part of that of St. Romain. At length, the city became so vast and populous, that the Viennese were enabled to levy entire legions to support Vindex against the Emperor Nero; and though Vitellius afterwards sent the fourteenth legion, it was afraid to approach the place; the bravery of its inhabitants being sufficiently well known to be dreaded by these troops. Vienne is mentioned by Martial in the following lines, equally complimentary to himself and to it:

"Festus habere meos, si vera est fama, libellos,
Inter delicias, pulchra Vienne, tuas."

A free Translation.

If fame speaks true, O sweet Vienne, I'm bless'd;
For 'midst your dear delights my works shall rest.

During the reign of Diocletian, a new division of the empire was made, and Vienne became the capital of a province which contained Geneva, Grenoble, Albe (now Viviers), Die, Valence, Avignon,

Arles, Carpentras, Marseilles, Riez, Vaison, Orange, and Cavaillon. When Constantine created four prefects, he gave three lieutenants to that whose seat of justice was at Treves. One of them had his residence at Vienne, where the only dépôt of flax and hemp was established by the Gauls, as was also a manufactory for blades of swords, the steel of which was so finely tempered that they acquired such a celebrity, that no knight considered himself well armed without his "Vienna," a name given to those blades. A company of wine-merchants was also established at Vienne. A gold medal of the emperor Maurice, struck at Vienne, attests the fact of its having a mint; and a considerable number of moulds for medals were found by Monsieur Chapel du Cruzot, and are noticed by Monsieur Millin, in his *Voyage du Midi*. In the early part of the christian era, Vienne hastened to receive the light of the faith; and the letters written by the heads of its church, as well as by that of Lyons, to those in Asia, manifesting the deep interest they felt for the persecutions to which the Christians had been exposed, are among the most curious monuments of that remote epoch.

During the reign of the feeble Honorius, Vienne fell under the dominion of the Burgundians, and became the capital of their kingdom. The kings of Burgundy had a palace there, where Gondioc died about the year 467. Gondemard also held his court at Vienne when, in concert with Chilperic, he made war against their brother, and they retired to this city, after having forced their enemy to take flight. Gondebaud did not permit them to triumph long at his retreat, for he shortly returned and surprised them. He decapitated Chilperic, and burnt Gondemard, who had shut himself up in a tower; and after this sanguinary vengeance, he took up his abode at Geneva, which became his capital. In the eighth century, Vienne was ravaged with fire and sword, by the Moors from Spain; all on the right bank of the river was consumed by the flames, and though the part on the left was restored, the most beautiful of its monuments were destroyed. Vienne became successively the property of the kings of France, who took possession of Burgundy. Boson, brother-in-law of Charles the Bald, revolted, and was crowned at Mantaille, near St. Romain d'Albon, six leagues from Vienne, and declared that city capital of the second kingdom of Burgundy. Rhodolphe, named Le Fainéant, having allowed his states to be dismembered, Vienne became the prey of the governors and heads of the church. The chapter of St. Maurice and archbishops of Vienne, were intrusted with its guardianship, by Frederick I. in 1153. Implicit power was given to them to levy troops, make war, or peace, coin money, and to count the seigneurs in the neighbourhood among their vassals. The guard of the Fort Pipet was confided to a canon of St. Maurice. The Dauphins tried in

vain to have the town included in their states. Humbert attempted to create certain rights, by buying those of the house of Vienne; but never succeeded in having them acknowledged.

Philippe de Valois, having possessed himself of the Faubourg de St. Colombe, united it to his kingdom; and Charles V. obtained from the emperor, the title of vicar-general of the kingdom of Vienne and Arles, and governor of Dauphiné, for his son Charles. It was after this title that he became master of Vienne in 1378. The archbishop Thibaud de Rougemond was re-established in his rights in 1401; but the dauphin, afterwards Louis XI. by a treaty which took place in 1448, became sovereign of Vienne; since when it has made a part of the kingdom of France. The sieges it sustained impaired the original splendour of Vienne; but the ruins which still remain, convey a forcible impression of its former prosperity. Monsieur Rey, who has written a history of Vienne, has made such accurate researches, as enabled him to trace the remains of many edifices; and the following list of buildings will prove how much it was indebted to its Roman masters: — The Palace of the Emperors—the Temples of Jupiter, Mars, and Janus—the Palace of the Prætors—the Pantheon—the Naumachia, and the Baths.

The vestiges of its former prosperity which still remain, are those of the Temple of Augustus, the amphitheatre, theatre, the arch, walls, forts, terraces, aqueducts, and roads. The Pyramidal Cenotaph is still in such good preservation, as to have lost little by the rude hand of Time, and is an interesting monument of antiquity. One of the roads leads to Arles, and was formed by Domitian. Three of the aqueducts are described by Monsieur Scheneyders, and a fourth is mentioned by Monsieur Cochard. There are besides a vast number of sewers, which are frequently mistaken for aqueducts, notwithstanding the difference of their construction and destination. The Roman governors commenced the fortifications, about the period that Pompey was sent pro-consul into Spain, against Sertorius.—During the sojourn of Pompey at Vienne, he suggested to Manilius, who commanded there, the idea of erecting new fortifications on an eminence which commands the town, and which was nearer than the other fortified positions. This place was named Forum Pompeiacum, instead of Eumedium, and the Castellum de Pupeto (now Fort Pipet) situated at the east of the city, between the gate of Pipet and that of St. Marcel, owes its construction to the same source. The precious fragments of antiquity found in latter times beneath this height, have caused it to be considered as the capitol of Vienne. The walls and massive posts which form the renowned enclosure of the *Castrum*, are attributed to Julius Cæsar. The extent forms a circuit of between eighteen and nineteen thousand feet, and from the

immense thickness of the foundations, it is imagined that, in the weaker parts of natural defence, they were of extraordinary height. These formidable ramparts may be traced from the spot where stood a tower on the banks of the Rhône, which is said to have been the prison of Pilate, (1) and was hence called the Tower of Pilate, to the Mons Salutis, now Mont Salomone, down to the Porte Scopaine, where there was a Roman gate. After covering Mont Arnold, they fall suddenly on the place now called Faubourg Pont-Evêque, where is also a gate; then ascending the Mont Quirinal, or, St. Blandine, they fall again into the valley, a little below the grotto of St. Marcel, where was the fourth gate. The line of walls passed thence round Mont Crappum, or St. Juste, to Ferrouillère, where was a fifth gate, and thence crossed a rivulet. The traces of the ruins do not admit of ascertaining where the walls again joined the Rhône.

Besides the gates into the city, there were others for facilitating the entrance of provisions within the walls, two of these open into Mons Salutis. The Romans, who found that their soldiers, if quartered in towns, would contract enervating habits, kept them in camps removed from the city. The three hills devoted to this use, were those of Salutis, Arnoldi, and Crappum. The Quirinal Mont, or St. Blandine, which is the most elevated part, formed the citadel; and the fort of Pompey or Pipet was the capitol of Vienne. The fort de la Bastia stands, a proud record of the strength of the Roman castrum; and, on approaching the town is the first object that impresses the traveller with an idea of the ancient grandeur of Vienne.

The fortresses remaining to be noticed, are the towers of St. Symphorien, de Pinet, d'Auberive, and d'Albon, which have by some been said to have been erected for the defence of Vienne. But this opinion is, by the more learned, said to be erroneous; for St. Symphorien they assert was built in the thirteenth century, by the counts of Savoy, to whom Vienne then belonged. Auberive was the patrimony of the house of Châlons, princes of Orange, by whom it was built, and was called Albariva, or white bank, from the whiteness of its sands, which is used in manufacturing glass. Albon belonged to the Dauphins. Vienne, in the time of the Romans, was sufficiently defended by the forts and camps within its circumference; in latter times the fortresses of Mont Léans, the castle of Roussillon, above the grand road to Avignon, the little tower on the mountain of St. Colombe, and the château de Seyssuel, were

(1) "Il est certain qu'Archelaüs, successeur d'Hérode au royaume de Judée, fut relégué à Vienne par Auguste; qu'il en fut de même d'Hérode Antipas par Caligula, et que Pilate fut également banni par cet empereur dans les Gaules. Joseph, en ses Antiquités Judaïques, le dit formellement des deux premiers; mais il assure que Pilate fut exilé à Lyon, et Adon soutient que c'est à Vienne, et une légende de St. Mamert l'assure également."—*Rey*, p. 28.

the advanced posts, which were difficult to carry. About a mile from the town stands the ruins of the castle, built by Gerard de Roussillon, count of Vienne, when he was besieged by Charles the Bald. It is situated on an eminence to the east, and bears the name of its founder. Near the gate of St. Marcel are the ruins of the Roman theatre. They are above the road Beaumur, so called from the beautiful remains of this building, which stand at the base of Mount Crappum, or St. Juste, backed by a rock which is nearly perpendicular, and said to resemble one at Delos. This situation was well chosen, as it rendered the voice more audible as well as sonorous. The theatre is elevated more than thirty-six feet above the platform of the amphitheatre, from which it is not far distant; but, owing to the continual falling in of the earth from the rock above, the remaining walls are so covered, as to render their discovery difficult, unless with considerable labour. The diameter is more than fifty-seven feet; the wall which borders the road Beaumur is traversed by a vault, which serves as a sewer to carry off the rain water, as well as that which filters from the rock. There is another wall parallel to this on the same road, which terminated the back part of the scene; and between these two walls there was a passage, by which the actors passed from the stage. There were also lateral buildings to accommodate the spectators who came from a distance, and which were therefore called *hospitales*. The walls which traverse the road De Ferouillat, and which extend through the neighbouring vineyards, terminate the *cullée*, and separate the seats from the *hospitales*. The walls which take the direction towards the middle of the orchestra, inclosed the stairs for ascending to the different parts. The place assigned to the senators was in the orchestra, immediately at the foot of the proscenium; and the knights occupied the *cavea* or parterre.

A considerable portion of the ruins of the theatre served to build the church and monastery of St. Peter, on the site of the Campus Martius. The church of St. Stephen was erected from the ruins of the Pantheon, and the present theatre (a miserable building) out of the ruins of the Roman Baths. How much is the ignorance to be deplored, that induced the former possessors of Vienne to destroy such precious remains of antiquity! The only Roman monument at Vienne that is not in ruins is the Pyramid, known by the appellation of the Cenotaphe, or Place de l'Aiguille. Various are the conjectures as to the use for which it was originally designed; and few, if any, of those who have hazarded them, have agreed in their conclusions. It bears evident marks of never having been completed; the capitals, indeed, are almost in the earliest and roughest stage of their original formation; the base also was

left unfinished, and the columns were not polished. The proportions are nearly those of Vitruvius, and the whole effect of the Pyramid is imposing. It is supposed to have been the Tomb of Vénérius, founder of Vienne, or the first mile-stone of the town; or the Tomb of Pilate; or an obelisk presenting a front to the four cardinal points, which had marked the hours on a horizontal cadran. Chorier, in his erudite work on the antiquities of Vienne, asserts this monument to be the Cenotaph of Augustus; and other antiquarians believe it to be that of Severus, as Crévier, in his "*Histoire Ancienne*," states that a cenotaph was erected in Gaul to his memory; and as the only other building of this kind known in Gaul is that at Mayence, recognized as being raised in honour of Drusus, this at Vienne is asserted to be the one referred to. The antiquarians of the present day at Vienne maintain their different opinions on this point with no inconsiderable degree of warmth and animation; and it is not a little amusing to a philosophical observer to be present when they advance the reasons on which they have based their beliefs.

26th.—The greater part of the last two days has been passed at the Musée, formerly the Church of St. Peter, and now converted into a receptacle for the antiquities discovered at Vienne and its environs. It contains many most precious fragments of antiquity, as well as some interesting ones of the middle ages. Among the former is a colossal head of Jupiter, which has, however, been injured by the injudicious hand of an artist employed to repair it. A mask of Bacchus crowned with ivy and hops; a male torso of great beauty, bearing a likeness to that of Antinous; and an exquisite group, consisting of two children, formed of Parian marble, disputing the possession of a dove. The youngest is represented biting the arm of him who holds the bird, while a lizard seizes a butterfly on his knee. At the side of the elder, a serpent passes the trunk of a hollow tree, and appears to raise itself to attack him, and the least of the children presses with his foot the tail of the serpent. The execution of this group is very fine, and luckily it is so little impaired by time, as to retain its pristine beauty. This charming work was discovered in a vineyard at a short distance from Vienne; and has been noticed by Messrs. Millin and Cuvier. The much admired statue of the boy plucking a thorn from his foot, now in the Louvre at Paris, was also found here. Several fragments of rare beauty, but too numerous to mention, ornament the Museum at Vienne. Limbs, some of colossal proportions, statues, torsos, alti and bassi-rilievi, cornices of admirable workmanship, and mosaic pavements, attract the attention of the stranger; and a collection of objects of art fill different *armoires*, many of them well worthy of attention. A fragment of mosaic of the

fifteenth century, composed of glass of various brilliant colours, intermixed with leaves of gold and silver, is of rare beauty. Columns, capitals, friezes, cinerary urns, busts, and vases, are here in abundance; and a marble altar, presenting three fronts, finely sculptured, is much esteemed by the virtuosi. It is gratifying to observe the pride which the respectable part of the inhabitants take in the Museum. They direct the attention of travellers to it with no little self-complacency, and take an interest in every object of art discovered in the excavations. "*Notre Musée*," as they call it, is referred to, as something to be justly vain of: and never did national vanity find a more inoffensive source of indulgence. The inscriptions found, which are numerous, encourage a love of reading, in order to compare the different historical authorities, as to their original destination and signification. Many fathers bring their sons to translate for them; while those who are more erudite display their learning in explaining the various objects of art, and decanting upon the inscriptions.

27th.—Rode over the hills to-day. The weather mild and genial, as if it was the early part of September, instead of the close of October. The aqueducts, which are in many places in a state of perfect preservation, present a very picturesque effect among the undulations of the hills, which are nearly overgrown with box and privet, the fresh green of which looks still more vivid near the limpid stream furnished by the aqueducts, and which gushes brightly from its arches. Nothing can be more beautiful or various than the views these hills command; the Rhône forming always a striking feature in the picture. If Vienne was inhabited by English instead of French, how many tasteful villas, and pretty cottages, would soon ornament its environs. At present not one residence of either kind is to be seen, though the beauty of the country might tempt at least the rich citizens to erect such, as a temporary retreat from the turmoil of business; but it is evident the modern French have as little inclination for rural retirement as those of *l'ancien régime*; unlike our citizens, who rarely lose that preference for green fields and trees, which is a peculiar taste of all classes in England, as is evinced by the stately mansions and comfortable abodes, as well as the simple cottages, scattered around London. How inviting are the residences of our citizens, where they inhale the fresh breezes of the country, and lay in a stock of health for their commercial occupations. How often, when viewing the fine prospects in France, does memory dwell on the highly cultivated ones at home? Richmond—unrivalled, unequalled Richmond—with its umbrageous trees, verdant lawns, flowery gardens, bright river, and picturesque villas:—to Dulwich, with its pretty houses, embowered in trees, and perfumed

by glowing flowers ;—and to Hampstead, with its wild heath, and fresh gales. No ! there is nothing like dear old England ! We may love to wander in other countries ; but *that* is our home, the home of our choice, of our affection.

One has read of a lover who left his mistress that he might write to her. It is thus we leave our fatherland, to think of it more fondly, more proudly ; and to return to it as the schoolboy does to his mother's arms, after his first separation.

28th.—On wandering through the ill-constructed streets of this, at present, obscure town, it is difficult to imagine that it was here that the council was held in 1311 and 1312, which pronounced the abolition of the Knights Templars ; when Philip le Bel, with all his court, attended. The historian Fleuri relates the circumstance. The knights were named Templars owing to Baldwin II., king of Jerusalem, having given them a residence close to the temple of Solomon. The order did not exist two centuries, and was abolished during the time that Briand de Lagnieu was archbishop of Vienne. The pope, Clement V., convoked a general council on the subject of the affairs of the Templars ; the succour to be sent to the Holy Land ; and the reformation of the manners and discipline of the church. At this council were assembled above three hundred bishops, exclusive of cardinals ; the patriarchs of Alexandria and of Antioch, the abbés, and priors. No decree passed during the first session, and the rest of the year was devoted to conferences on the subjects to be decided, and particularly on all the affairs relating to the Knights Templars. The acts made against them were read, and the pope demanded the advice of his clergy. They were unanimous, with one solitary exception, in the opinion, that the defence of the knights should be heard before any decision was pronounced ; a unanimity not a little remarkable, when one reflects that the prelates of Italy, Spain, Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Denmark, were in the council. Those of France were of the same opinion, except the archbishops of Rheims, of Sens, and of Rouen. The next year, during Lent, Philip le Bel came to Vienne, accompanied by his three sons, Louis, King of Navarre, Philip, and Charles. The haughtiness and independence of the knights, founded on their high birth and the military glory they had achieved, inspired Philip le Bel with a jealousy and hatred, in which the natural weakness and cruelty of his character disposed him to indulge ; and on Good Friday, the 22nd of March, Pope Clement assembled a number of cardinals and bishops, who, influenced by the persuasions of Vertot, consented to pronounce a sentence of annulment against the Knights Templars. (1) Their suppression was published at the second

(1) Rapin de Thoiras.

session, in presence of Philip le Bel, his three sons, and his brother, Charles de Valois. Thus was abolished the order of the Templars, which, since its approval at the council of Troies, in 1128, existed one hundred and eighty-four years. By an agreement between the pope and council, a portion of the property of the Templars was given to the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who are now the Knights of Malta.

Vienne was formerly united to St. Colombe by a bridge, which, owing to some defect in the construction, required frequent and expensive repairs; to defray the cost of which various expedients were had recourse to. Antoine de la Colombière, grand vicar of the Archbishop Ange-Cato, devised the only successful plan. In the diocese of Vienne, as in the rest of France, Lent always commenced on Monday, instead of Wednesday, as at present; and the vicar bethought him of publishing, in 1500, a general dispensation from this ancient custom, and permitted the people to eat meat on the Monday and Tuesday of the first week in Lent, provided that each inhabitant above the age of seven years paid a fee of three farthings. And in order to excite their liberality, he gave to those who brought the fee forty days' free pardon in remission of their sins; commanding, under pain of excommunication, that all those who would not pay, should strictly observe the statute which ordained an abstinence from meat and other prohibited articles of food, on the Mondays and Tuesdays. The pope approved this act, and the legate of Avignon reiterated it in a bull dated 1507. In course of time this concession of the church, which at first concerned only the people of Vienne, extended itself over the diocese, and *le Carême* lost for ever the two days named, which were added to the wild gaieties of the Carnival: a proof that, even in remote times, good cheer was as highly appreciated by the Viennese as it is at present by those with more pretensions to refinement. Of this bridge, there remains at present but one pile, which is the centre one, standing in the middle of the Rhône, and which adds much to the picturesque appearance of Vienne. The suppression of the *Cour des Aides*, established by Louis XIII., was very injurious to Vienne, but the Revolution produced a melancholy change in its fortunes. Prior to that event, she possessed a rich and numerous clergy. Her archbishop took the title of Primate of Gaul; she had two chapters richly endowed, and various royal abbeys. The division of France into departments has taken from the jurisdiction of Vienne a great portion of its former territory, and it required the enterprising spirit, and persevering industry, for which its inhabitants are remarkable, to enable the town to support the reverses it had endured. Guided by her ancient love of commerce, and taking advantage of the

waters of the Gere, the Leveau, and the brook St. Marcel, the citizens of Vienne have established various manufactories of cloth and satteen on the borders of these streams, and the place bids fair to entitle itself at no remote period to be classed among the first rank of manufacturing towns in France.

29th.—Went to view the fine mosaic pavement discovered in a vineyard near the Place de l'Aiguille. It is of considerable extent, and in perfect preservation; the principal compartments have figures of men, with wings, well executed. We were also shown in the same vineyard a small compartment of mosaic, lately discovered, and which is supposed to extend to a considerable distance.

30th.—Rode "over the hills and far away," on roads, if such steep and dizzy tracks may be so designated, that almost made me giddy to look on them; some, overhanging precipices, that I dared not contemplate, and broken by brawling brooks, that dashed down the sides of the chasms. I find my English thorough-bred horse not quite steady enough for such expeditions, and mean to persuade Comte D'Hautpoul to sell me his charger Mameluke, whose paces and sobriety have pleased me. I am amused at discovering how philosophically we have all learned to submit to the discomforts of the *table ronde*, which appeared so insupportable the first two or three days. The secret of our philosophy is, the unusual quantity of air and exercise we have indulged in ever since our arrival here. They bestow an elasticity of spirits that enables us to bear up against the *désagrémens* of our inn; give an appetite, that renders palatable our ill-dressed repasts; and an inclination to sleep, that makes our indifferent beds almost as acceptable to wearied frames as luxurious ones. I find that the *table ronde* owes its name to a rare monument, formerly situated in the immediate spot where the inn now stands. In the middle of a small building supported by four columns was a round table, which gave the name; and the building served as an asylum against arrest for debt or murder. To enjoy this privilege it was necessary to cry out, on placing a hand on the bolt of the door, "*Franchise Mont Léans.*" The merchandize or furniture placed in this asylum, were as safe from seizure as was the person of their possessor. This privilege was granted to the ancient lords of Mont Léans, and after them, those of Maugiron succeeded to it. In 1792 the building was destroyed, in order to widen the street.

31st.—Crossed over to St. Colombe, accompanied by our classical cicerone M. Artaud, to inspect the interesting fragments of antiquities at that side of the Rhône. The tower, built by Philippe de Valois, first attracted our attention. It is a square building of simple but solid construction, and in good preservation, and was erected to defend the passage of the bridge. A magnificent

palace is said to have been built at St. Colombe, still cited as the palace of Pompey, or the palace of Mirror, the last epithet being applied to it, owing to the polished marble with which its interior was lined. This palace furnishes a fruitful field for the descriptive powers of antiquarians to luxuriate in, and the magnificent frieze, and cornice of marble, as well as statues, found on the site it occupied, justify their conjectural eulogiums. At St. Colombe, we saw a mosaic pavement, only excavated the previous day, and which formed the decoration of some of the rooms of the before mentioned palace. It is in a vineyard, and is of considerable extent, judging by the corresponding portions discovered in various parts of the same place. The proprietor of the vineyard had a number of workmen, who uncovered a considerable piece of this beautiful pavement while we were present; and it was with feelings of no common interest that we beheld restored to the light of day, a work of art that had been for centuries concealed from human sight. Each compartment of the principal mosaic, supposed to be the centre, has a bird or an animal, surrounded by borders of rich and varied patterns. When a few buckets-full of water had been thrown over them, the colours became as vivid as in their pristine beauty, and the peacocks, pheasants, ducks, and cocks, were portrayed with an accuracy and spirit that would not have shamed even the pencil of Landseer; the various shades of their glowing plumage being accurately represented by a composition of blue, white, and red earth, glass, and stones, highly polished, which has a brilliant effect. Several specimens of mosaic have been discovered in other parts of the vineyard; and M. Artaud is of opinion that the whole plan of the ground floor might be traced by the pavement. One is simple, and is supposed to be that of the vestibule; others branching from it, are said to be passages, or corridors, but the last, excavated, is by far the most beautiful, and is consequently assigned to have been that of the hall of state. How many reflections did the view of this fine pavement excite, as the workmen uncovered the compartments! Centuries have passed away since the light fell on them, and generations and generations have been swept from the earth, yet the colours of this work of art retain all their original beauty. Those pavements have often echoed to the tread of the mighty and famed; *their* eyes have often glanced on the figures so well represented, on which mine have looked, and which are now, after a lapse of centuries, again displayed to admiring spectators! Could this pavement reveal the scenes that have occurred on it, what a story might it not unfold! A tale of passion, love, hate, ambition, operating on its slaves more powerfully than in our days, because the world was less old, less civilized, and less *blasé*;

and prudence, or its substitute hypocrisy, was less known, as it was less necessary. Great virtues and great crimes marked those times : general humanity and petty vices the present. The deeds of the ancients, whether of good or of evil, were like their buildings, calculated to leave behind them subjects for the reflection of posterity ; while ours are formed to endure but a brief epoch, and scarcely survive the actors or the architects. Yet we have some heroes that may defy oblivion. We have *him*—*him*, the hero of a hundred fights ! Yes, Wellington is a name that will live when no stone of the edifice wherein he dwells, will remain to indicate its site ; for his deeds are more imperishable than any monument we moderns can erect to commemorate them. Should we not reverence those who link their country to fame ; who secure for it that glory which for ages will survive ? Such men should, in their lives, experience the respect and homage that the world will accord their memories ; we should be to them—as posterity.

November 1st.—Went to St. Colombe again to-day ; and examined the ruins of the Roman baths. The parts of the walls that remain are of *opus reticulatum*, a species of brick-work that well resists the assaults of time. The flue for conducting the heat to the baths is visible, and judging by the fragments of rare and rich marbles found in abundance on the spot, it may be concluded that these thermæ or baths were constructed with no ordinary attention to decoration. The walls of the vineyard in which these interesting ruins are situated, are for the most part composed of the fragments of the ancient palaces and thermæ. At every step the eye discovers a mutilated capital, broken column, or fragment of the drapery of a statue ; and pieces of *lapis lazuli*, Parian marble, serpentine, *verd antique*, granite and porphyry, are continually found in turning up the earth. It was in the immediate vicinity of the baths, that the beautiful torso, now in the Muscum at Vienne, was discovered. Monsieur and Madame Michaud allowed us to examine this valuable and interesting collection of antiquities, all found on their property at St. Colombe. Among the finest specimens is a small bronze statue of a faun with a sheep on its back, and several fragments of statues, many of which are of great beauty. I am indebted to their polite liberality for a small marble hand, found near the baths, and specimens of the different marbles used in the decoration of the palaces and thermæ. They showed us a glass lachrymatory found in an ancient tomb near Vienne, which resembles mother-of-pearl in its prismatic hues ; and several curious articles of Roman pottery. It is interesting to witness the pleasure with which the antiquarians of Vienne behold every object of art discovered in their neighbourhood. It is examined, commented upon, admired, and praised with an enthusiasm peculiar to the

gentle craft of antiquarians ; but still more peculiar to those who, living remote from cities, and the excitement of political or commercial pursuits, bestow the whole of their attention on this, to them, fascinating occupation. It is perhaps more wise, and is certainly less selfish, to allow one's thoughts to revert to the past, as antiquarians do, than to permit them to be wholly engrossed by the present ; as is the case with the mere men of the world, though the latter are apt to smile in pity at what they term, the busy idleness of the former.

2nd.—The weather is so exceedingly mild here, that one might be tempted to imagine that autumn was in "the sere and yellow leaf." This mildness does not compensate for the annoyances it produces, for flies are very disagreeable, covering the table and dishes ; and the mosquitoes are insufferable, attacking strangers with a pertinacity that nearly defies the means employed to repel them. My face bears visible signs of their gluttonous propensities ; and at night, the buzzing sound they make, occasions many a start from the pillow. Our less genial climate has many advantages, among which, not the least is its exemption from the troublesome insects that swarm in France.

Comte D'Hautpoul has kindly consented to sell me his charger Mameluke, and I am delighted with my new acquisition. I rode him to-day, and rejoiced in the steadiness of his temper and easiness of his paces. He is so well broken in that a child might ride him ; yet he arches his neck and prances with a *fierté* that might alarm one who did not know his gentleness. There is nothing more invigorating to the frame, or exhilarating to the spirits, than a gallop across the turf on the surrounding hills ; a fresh and bracing air fanning the cheeks, and the rapid movement circulating the blood briskly through the veins. Exercise is the key to health ; but how many suffer it to rust from disuse, and consequently lose the blessing it could bestow. It is not physical enjoyment alone that depends on the possession of it, for the mind gains in a tenfold degree. The beauties of nature and art are infinitely more prized ; and even study becomes more agreeable when the body is in robust condition.

3rd.—Saw a sad sight to-day — the corse of a soldier of the 9th chasseurs, borne by some of his companions, the sanguine stream of life still flowing from his wounds. He had been killed in a duel, only a few minutes before ; was considered a brave man, and remarkable for good looks. A private soldier killed in a duel, sounds oddly to English ears ; but, in France, it is an occurrence by no means unfrequent. A false sentiment of honour, strongly inculcated in the military profession here, operating on the choleric tempers of men as remarkable for an inordinate *amour-propre* as for

bravery, leads continually to such results. An insulting epithet, rude contradiction, rivalry in an *affaire de cœur*, or any one of a hundred other causes of dissension, is followed by a duel, fought with swords; many of which end fatally. In our service, similar causes would not produce the same effect: not owing to any want of bravery, for in that quality our soldiers have well proved that they yield to none; but simply because they think and feel differently. They imagine that a good exchange of lusty blows scientifically inflicted, is as rational a mode of resenting an offence, as the more chivalrous one of the duello; and reserve their swords for the enemies of their country. It was terrific to behold the pale and ghastly corse, stained with blood, that only a few minutes before had been warm in life; and, still more dreadful, to think the departed had met dissolution while seeking to inflict it on his opponent; that he had rushed into the presence of his Creator with the desire of vengeance, only stayed by death! Perhaps even now, some fond mother is anticipating a meeting with him; or some affianced bride counting the hours of a separation that she dreams not will be interminable! Alas! alas! few are they who can leave this earth without bringing sorrow on some one who loved them; some one who will turn from the pleasant spring, when it comes forth with its sunshine and leaves, to think of him who can enjoy them no more! and yet, a hasty word, a puerile offence, can make a man brave death, draw desolation on those to whom he was dear, and outrage the Divinity by rushing into His presence uncalled.

4th.—Walked over Vienne to-day; had the site of the ancient baths, at present occupied by the theatre, pointed out to me. They are reported to have been of extraordinary splendour; and the description of them given by Chorier, in his *Antiquities of Vienne*, leads one to regret that, instead of building on the spot, the whole of the ruins had not been excavated with care, and their remains left, like those at St. Colombe, to gratify the curiosity of antiquarians. Chorier's description is really gorgeous. He says that one of the baths was of a rotund form, and was entered by a flight of marble steps. It was lined with *verd antique*, and around it were seats of Parian marble. Fragments of an entablature of the same material were found ornamented by fine sculptures. The columns that supported this building were of different coloured marbles, of the richest quality. Two statues of rare beauty, and the feet of one of bronze, were discovered attached to pedestals. That of bronze was the work of a Greek sculptor, Myron, whose name was on the pedestal. One of the marble statues represented an athlete, of colossal proportions, supposed, from its nudity, to have been the production of the celebrated Zenodorus, who was employed ten years on the colossal statue of Mercury, executed

for the city of Clermont, in Auvergne; and whose long residence in Gaul, whence he was called to Rome by Nero, renders the supposition probable. The head of this statue was sent to Paris. Fragments of marble pavements of rosso antico, bordered by blue, capitals of columns, broken friezes, alti and bassi-rilievi, mutilated statues, and leaden pipes for distributing the water in the different baths, have been found in abundance, when laying the foundation of the theatre.

5th.—This day, sacred in England to dense fogs, and effigies of Guy Fawkes, has been here as mild and sunshiny as the first days of September. The influence of climate on the health and spirits is, after all, not to be denied; and it compensates for the lack not only of luxury, but of comfort, experienced in a rambling life on the Continent. Yet when the evening closes in, and a cold air, not excluded by ample window curtains, well-fitting windows, and doors that shut close, makes itself felt, I yearn for the well-furnished, well-warmed apartments of my home; where the genial atmosphere and solid elegancies within doors, make one forget the discomforts without. The luxuries and refinements that civilization begets, though they have their disadvantages, are not without many advantages; not the least of which may be considered the love of home they create in those who might not be influenced by more patriotic sentiments. Our country and hearths become doubly dear when their luxurious comforts are contrasted with the cheerless residences of the Continent; which, whatever may be their pretensions to costly decoration, are sadly deficient in that English indispensable, comfort. Who would not fight for that cheerful hearth, by whose exhilarating blaze he has sat surrounded by the objects of his affection, enjoying all the appliances of competence that industry can supply, or civilization invent? How often, when travelling in an autumnal evening, in dear England, have I glanced through the well-cleaned casements of the humble cottages that border the road, and been delighted with the pictures the interior presented. The bright fire, and mantel-shelf over it, with its shining coppers; the clock, that marks the flight of time; the well-rubbed warming-pan; the dresser with its store of china and delf; and the clean cloth spread on the homely board, round which happy faces are congregated—yes, such scenes have I often dwelt on with pleasure in England. But, in France, I have as yet beheld none such.

A man, with an air half soldier half mechanic, is seen loitering in chat with some neighbour, at the doors of the untidy abodes that, few and far between, are scattered along the sides of the roads in France; or else a masculine, ill-favoured looking woman fills up the door-way, cutting, with a large knife, a wedge of bread, that in colour emulates the tint of her complexion; while a few sturdy,

sallow-faced children, seem to bid defiance to the angry reproofs she occasionally bestows on them, for tormenting the long-legged pigs, lanky dogs, and skinny cats, that unhappily fall in their way. How often have I, when travelling in the environs of some English city, looked with delight on the neat dwellings, and their trim gardens, redolent with flowers, that are thickly strewn by the road's side.—The luxuriant growth of the flowers indicated the care bestowed on their culture; the dahlias flaunted in all the pride of their gorgeous hues; and every autumnal garden guest bloomed so richly as to make one forget the roses they succeeded. The grass plots were green, and smooth as velvet; the gravel walks displayed not a single faded leaf, or weed, to sully their purity; and the balustrades and railings, nay, the very walls that inclosed the pleasure grounds, looked as if well washed every day. The brass knocker, plate on the door, and bell handles, shone like gold, bearing evidence to the indefatigable zeal of the housemaid; and the bright panes of glass, and pretty flower vases that graced the windows, were equally creditable to her care. In the window of one of these residences might be seen a staid and venerable matron, with spectacles on nose, anxiously looking towards the road for the arrival of her good man from the city, where he had been engaged in his daily avocations since the morning. It is the hour for his return; Betsy, the cook, has answered that the fish is boiled, the mutton done to a turn; and she hopes master will soon come. A gig stops at the door; a sleek, well-conditioned horse, who has drawn it, seems to know he is at home; a steady-looking lad, in a plain sober livery, jumps out and assists an elderly gentleman, with rubicund cheeks, protuberant stomach, cloth gaiters, and closely buttoned great-coat, to alight, who, looking at his watch, proclaims that he is five minutes later than his ordinary time, and inwardly hopes the mutton is not overdone.

In the window of another dwelling, a youthful and handsome woman may be seen, even more anxiously looking at the road than the elderly matron we have described. Her dress, though simple, is so tasteful as to bear irrefragable proof that its effect has been carefully studied. A beautiful child of two years old, is in her arms; and she glances from the window to the time piece with something of impatience, as she notes that it is a few minutes later than the usual hour of her husband's return. Nurse, who stands in the background, ventures to hint at the propriety of little master's going to bed; but the handsome mother declares he shall be kept to get a kiss from papa. Her cheek becomes more rosy, her eyes brighter, for a tilbury is driven rapidly to the gate; a prancing steed, down whose arched neck the dropping perspiration denotes the impatience with which his master has urged his speed, paws

the ground; the reins are thrown over his back, ere the knowing little groom boy can run to his head; and a tall handsome young man springs from the vehicle, and rapidly rushes towards the house; at the door of which he is met by his pretty wife, round whom and his child, his eager arms are soon wound.

Such are the scenes which the traveller may behold in dear, happy England; how much more cheering than any he will witness out of it! It is only in large cities in France that activity and prosperity are visible. The post-roads seldom present a handsome residence, a picturesque point of view, or a neat cottage with a flower garden. Few are the travelling-carriages that traverse them; and these few are occupied by English, migrating in search of health or amusement. A heavy, lumbering diligence, trails its slow length along the paved roads; or a waggon, resembling the ark of Noah, rumbles over them, leaving the beholders at a loss which most to pity, the wretched horses that draw the uncouth vehicle, or the wretched individuals that occupy it.

It is evident that the French peasantry have not the same love of flowers that distinguish ours. Poor indeed must the labourer be in England, round whose humble home these innocent and cheap luxuries are not seen to bloom; but even the farmers in France do not cultivate them. This absence of plants and flowers, as well as of those simple but tasteful decorations so generally adopted even by the lower classes in England, forcibly denotes the effects of revolution. That country, which has witnessed the triumphal march of foreign armies over its soil, or of revolutionary hordes destroying its possessions, loses the sense of security, so essential to the cultivation of the comforts and elegancies of life. The destruction of property it has once beheld, it is but natural to fear may be again repeated; hence people are more intent on providing for the positive wants of the present day, than in preparing for future enjoyment, which experience has taught them may be frustrated.

The peculiar characteristics of the people dispose them to a facility of excitement, highly injurious to, if not incompatible with, a long continuation of national prosperity. Hence they seem to live from day to day in expectation, or fear, of some subversion of government, the anticipation of which discourages any strenuous efforts of improvement; as the husbandman whose vineyard has once been overwhelmed by an eruption of a volcano, or the overflowing of a river, fears to expend a large sum in bringing it again into a state of cultivation, lest it should be once more destroyed. Is not the insecurity thus engendered by popular excitement more injurious to a country, than any advantages to be acquired by its most successful results can ever be serviceable? It is in this sense

of security that has given such an impetus to the English, as to render their land, in defiance of its uncertain climate, the garden of Europe. It is this that has encouraged its commerce—elevated its merchants into nobles, and fostered science and art. Never may this confidence be shaken! but let England learn from the misfortunes of other nations, to estimate the blessings she enjoys.

The love of rural life, so indigenous in English hearts, and which pervades every class, is unknown in France. No sooner has a citizen with us attained a competence, than he secures for himself an abode in the country, where every moment that can be spared from business is passed, in making his residence and its grounds a scene of beauty and repose. He delights in seeing around him umbrageous trees, verdant lawns, and blooming flowers; and enjoys, with a true zest, the tranquil happiness his industry has honourably acquired. Many are the citizens in England thus blessed; and one whom I personally know might furnish the original for a picture seldom if ever to be met with elsewhere.

The respectable individual to whom I refer is a large capitalist. With a fortune that might enable him to emulate the ambitious in their pursuit of power, or outshine the ostentatious in their display of wealth, he is content to lead the life of a philosopher; but of the active and practical, rather than of the reflecting and theoretical school. See him at his country residence, planning new and judicious improvements in his grounds, overlooking and directing his workmen, suggesting salutary experiments on his farms, ameliorating the condition of his dependants, and the breed of his cattle, and it would be supposed that he had passed his life in agricultural pursuits, and thought of nothing else. Yet in two hours after, this worthy individual may be seen acting as the presiding spirit of one of the largest houses of business in London; examining every new invention in the useful arts; giving orders in various branches of trade that furnish occupation for hundreds; and in his commercial relations with other countries, by his probity, intelligence, and high principles, extending the honourable reputation of a British merchant throughout the civilised world. At night, this gentleman may be seen perusing some clever work: and in the morning, at an early hour, he is again in his fruitful fields. Such are the men to be found in happy England; but rarely, if ever, are they to be met with where a revolution has left its destructive traces.

6th.—I have taken my last ride in the environs of Vienne. There is something sad in viewing any place with the certainty that we shall see it no more; and this feeling I experienced to-day, when pausing at each point commanding a fine prospect, I gazed for the last time on the beautiful country around. How many bosky dells,

moss-clad hills, foaming cataracts, and sylvan shades rarely seen, except by shepherd or husbandman's eye, have I become familiar with in the wild regions of the Viennean hills! And how little should I have appreciated their beauty, had I confined my peregrinations, as so many do, to the sterile and unpicturesque high roads. To-morrow we depart for Grenoble.

9th.—We stopped a day at Lyons, to enjoy the society of our friend Monsieur Artaud; and rarely have I met a person whose conversation is more interesting and instructive. He has furnished us with letters of introduction to half the cognoscenti of the south of France and Italy, so that it will not be his fault if I do not acquire a more than ordinary acquaintance with the antiquities of both countries.

Comte D'Hautpoul, colonel of the 9th chasseurs, has kindly accompanied us to Grenoble, and his society enhances our enjoyment of the new scenes presented to us. In him are united the brave soldier, the learned scholar, and accomplished gentleman, whose conversation is replete with interest and information.

The route from Lyons to Grenoble, is through a rich and fertile country, and the approach to the latter town is striking and imposing. It is surrounded by rocky mountains of the most picturesque form; behind which are seen towering still loftier ones, furnishing, as it were, a double rampart of defence to the town. I have nowhere beheld mountains so abrupt as here, or offering such a variety in their forms; and they approach so near the town as to render the contrast between their wild and grotesque appearance, and its civilization, provincial as it is, very striking.

We visited the gate to-day, now become historical, by which Napoleon made his entry to Grenoble on his memorable return from Elba. The spot was pointed out to us on which Colonel Henry Labedoyère, at the head of his regiment, hoisted the imperial eagle, and joined Napoleon; and we entered the little inn where this last rested while waiting the event of the gates being opened for his admittance. This was the first fortress that surrendered to him, an event ruinous in its consequences to Napoleon as well as to France; for had it resisted, the battle of Waterloo had been spared. I write this in the chamber in which this wonderful man reposed the night of his arrival, and have been listening to a detail of his reception and conduct on that occasion from a spectator. He is described as looking deadly pale, care-worn, and melancholy; but making violent efforts to recover his self-possession, and to assume a cheerfulness which it was evident he was far from feeling. It was in front of the window of this room that the gates were brought to him by a vast concourse of people, who hailed him with acclamations, and addressed him in the fol-

lowing words :—"Napoleon, our emperor, our glory, we could not offer you the keys of your good town of Grenoble, but we have brought you the gates." Napoleon is said to have betrayed great emotion on hearing this address; his pale cheeks became tinged for a moment with a hectic flush, and his eyes—those eyes which are said to have possessed an influence almost magical, over those on whom their piercing glances fell—sparkled with animation for a few brief moments, and then resumed their previous expression of gloom. In this room, and leaning his elbow on the table on which I now write, he held a long conversation with some of the principal of his followers, and with those officers who had here revolted to his standard; in which he entered into an explanation of his conduct, and the motives that actuated it, with an anxiety and consciousness, which betrayed his painful sense of the necessity of the explanation.—Fallen must have been the fortunes of the once stern and proud emperor, when he could condescend to explain why he was again in the land whence he had been exiled, and whose reception of him was at best but doubtful!—The chief reason he urged for his return, was his having ascertained that the Congress had determined on transporting him to St. Helena. Little could he have foreseen that this very return only served to accelerate the event it was meant to avert! but it is thus ever that weak mortals blindly rush on to the destiny, of which their own errors have laid the foundation.

If ever treason admits of palliation, it surely was in the case of those soldiers, who, led on for years to victory by this wonderful man, again saw that standard unfurled, beneath which they had acquired glory, and beheld *him*, whom they had so long been taught to regard as scarcely less than *invincible*, return from exile to conduct them again to conquest and fame. All their associations of the past, and hopes for the future, were stirred by his presence; and his fallen state only served to awaken every spark of generosity and enthusiasm in their natures. With the government they were forsaking they had no sympathy; they had not yet learned to appreciate the advantages of a peaceful reign; and the courage and vanity for which the natives of France, and more especially its soldiers, are proverbial, panted for an occasion to avenge and retrieve the imagined stain on their honour inflicted by the occupation of Paris by the allies. In the return of their martial chief, this occasion seemed presented; then can it be wondered at, that, combined with their personal attachment to Napoleon, it led them to throw off their allegiance to his successor, and resume their devotion to his cause?

10th.—Saw the Palace of Justice to-day, a gothic building, in the style of architecture of the time of Francis I.; also the Library

and Museum, which are beneath one roof. The Library is of considerable extent, and is well filled. Among its curiosities may be counted some ancient MSS. in which is the poetry of the Duke of Orleans, the father of Louis XII., and Les Heures, of the sixteenth century, beautifully illuminated. Among the rare books is a French Bible, the first translated into that language, by Raoul de Preisle, Master of the Court of Requests to Charles V., named the Wise, and "Catholicon," by Guttumberges, of the fifteenth century. The Library contains the colossal busts of four celebrated natives of Grenoble: the Chevalier Bayard (*sans peur et sans reproche*), the metaphysicians Condillac and Mably, and the mechanist Vaucanson. The Museum has some good pictures; but the most esteemed are two from the pencils of Claude Lorrain and Paul Veronese. The statues are, for the most part, casts from those in the Louvre. A cabinet of antiquities, with one of natural history, adjoins the Library. The respective collections are well arranged, and with the Library and Museum are much frequented by the middling and lower classes of the people. It is gratifying to witness their desire for knowledge. I have rarely entered a public library in France without finding it well attended; and its occupants were in general so intent on the subjects that interested them, that they seldom turned to regard the visitors. The Cathedral contains nothing worthy of notice; and the general appearance of the streets is gloomy and dull.

11th.—We drove to-day to the village of Sassenage, to see the grotto, to which it gives its name. Nothing can be more picturesque than the scenery of the route; which commands a fine view of the mountains on each side, and of the rivers Isère and Drave, the latter of which is very rapid, and must be crossed to arrive at Sassenage. Having reached this place, we left our carriage, and, conducted by two guides, proceeded up the mountain, by the side of a torrent. The ascent is very steep, and somewhat dangerous, but the views it commands are so beautiful that the fatigue and danger are amply repaid. After a walk of twenty minutes, we crossed the foaming torrent, on a plank brought for the purpose, on the shoulders of the guides; and soon reached the cascade formed by the vast rush of water from the cavern above. This waterfall proceeds from a subterranean stream issuing rapidly through a number of lesser caverns, formed in the rocky mountain. On ascending still higher, we reached the opening of the grotto, which has a very grand and imposing effect; and then entered the subterraneous gallery, preceded by our guides bearing torches. This passage is so low and narrow, that we had great difficulty in groping our way through it, though nearly on our knees. We at length arrived at a point that commands a view of the foaming gulf

beneath; the noise of which is perfectly appalling, as, lashed into fury, it sends its snowy spray in showers around. Having resumed the steep passage to the entrance of the grand cavern, we descended by an abrupt route, formed by large disjointed fragments of rocks; and crossed subterranean streams, winding round by the ledge of a vast rock, which having passed, we entered another grotto, through which the water rushes with a noise and rapidity truly surprising. All further access is prevented by the water, the deafening sound of which is reverberated through the corridors. The picture here presented was very sublime; the guides tossing about the torches to display the wonders of the place, their wild and haggard countenances tinged by the glare of the lights, which fell also on the dark water, giving its rushing masses a shade of lurid red. Their gestures too were so fantastic, as they endeavoured to point out to our observation the objects worthy of notice, all attempt at speaking, or at least of being heard, being from the noise of the water impossible, that there was something unearthly in the appearance of the whole scene.

Every turn of the descent to the village of Sassenage presents some fresh scene of wild beauty. Waterfalls rushing from fissures in the sterile mountain, large and isolated rocks of the most grotesque forms, trees and wild shrubs scattered between, and mountain rising over mountain, capped with snow; while at the bottom, a fertile valley glowing with cherry orchards and mulberry trees, not yet despoiled of their foliage;—all combine to render this one of the most picturesque and striking scenes imaginable. It is with great regret that I find we must abandon our projected visit to the celebrated Chartreuse in this neighbourhood; as the route, from the season being so far advanced, is considered unsafe.

ST. MARCELLIN, 13th.—The road from Grenoble to this place passes through a fertile and fine country, diversified by woods, vineyards, and mountains. The town itself has little to recommend it, save its excellent inn, *la petite France*, and its most attentive and obliging hostess. Both appear to great advantage after those of Vienne, where the discomfort of the accommodation, and extravagance of the charges, must often vex the traveller who sojourns there. Our hostess, as if aware of our recent privations, gave us a dinner copious enough to have satisfied a large party of gourmands, though not of a choice to have gratified the more fastidious taste of an epicure. She seemed to think that quantity was more essential than quality; for the table might well have groaned beneath the weight of the feast. In truth, twenty English labourers could not have consumed the repast set before us, which for four persons, consisted of no less than thirteen substantial dishes. It reminded me of the profusion of an inn dinner in the

unfrequented parts of the south of Ireland; and the assiduities of the hostess, "who gaily pressed and smiled," were not unlike those exhibited by Irish landladies, who, "on hospitable thoughts intent," seemed to believe that their guests could never have too much for their money.

14th.—The profusion of yesterday has been followed by a famine to-day. Not wishing to travel on the sabbath, we remained here; a contingency which our hostess had neither foreseen nor provided for, consequently her larder was but scantily stocked; and our servants, whose appetites are less delicate than ours, had consumed the viands despatched from our table last evening. The sabbath cannot be said to be a day of rest in France; it is, on the contrary, a day of pleasure; and the town has been filled with groups of both sexes, and of all ages, busy in the pursuit of amusement. This passion never seems to subside in the hearts of the gay and volatile inhabitants of this nation. The oldest men and women seek it with no less avidity than the young, and emulate them in the zest with which they indulge it. The gaiety that has prevailed here all day, had however nothing gross or disgusting in its exhibition. No symptom of intoxication could be discovered in the men, and the women, though lively, were not indecorous.

VALENCE, 15th.—Valence formed the duchy of Valentinois, that title disgraced by him on whom it was so improperly bestowed, the execrable Cæsar Borgia. This is a town of considerable extent, but its streets are narrow, irregular, and dirty. The house, in an obscure street, was pointed out to us, in which Napoleon Bonaparte, when a lieutenant in the artillery, spent many months. They were among the least brilliant, but assuredly not the most unhappy of his eventful life; for if he then dreamt not of a crown, he foresaw not the grave of a prisoner and an exile! Except a curious old gothic house, ornamented in a very grotesque style, the town contains nothing worthy of notice. The steeple of the cathedral was struck with lightning two nights ago; and the bells, which were very large, were split in two, and in their descent carried away the floors, and shattered the walls of the steeple. The cathedral is simple; its chief ornament being the mausoleum of Pius VI., which is in good taste. On the other side of the Rhône, and opposite to Valence, is the hill of St. Péray, covered with vines, which produce the wine of that name. Much of the wine sold as Champagne, is composed of St. Péray; in which, as we were informed, is put a certain portion of sugar, and a few grains of rice. The wines of the south of France are often sold for Malaga and Madeira, the proprietors of vineyards having arrived at a great proficiency in imitating those wines.

We begin already to be sensible of an increased mildness in the

temperature as we advance; but this advantage is deteriorated by the quantities of flies and mosquitoes that assail us. Though provided with gauze curtains for our beds, the mosquitoes and sand flies contrive to elude our vigilance; and often either preclude sleep, or take advantage of it, to leave visible signs of their visits. The aspect of the people of the south is very different to that of those we have lately quitted. Here, dark sparkling eyes, clear brown complexions, and an increased animation of manner, characterize the inhabitants. The men are, for the most part, tall and athletic; but the women are so peculiarly round-shouldered, and stoop so much, as to look as if they were deformed.

MONTE LIMART, 16th.—This was the first place in France where the reformed religion was established, and still contains many Protestant families. The rivers Jabron and Roubion unite here, and flow on until they join the Rhône. Nothing can be more rich and luxuriant than the country about Montelimart, covered with vineyards, orange-trees, mulberries, and myrtles, which last grow here like large hollies with us.

The site of the château de Grignon, immortalized by the letters of Madame de Sévigné, was pointed out to us. In that favourite residence she closed her mortal career; but no trace of it remains, as the château, as well as the church in its neighbourhood in which her remains were interred, were destroyed in the revolution. To Madame de Sévigné's charming letters do I trace my first love of epistolary lore. I was not more than seven years old when they were given to me to translate, and such was their effect on my mind, that I wasted several sheets of paper in addressing letters to some of my companions, in which I vainly attempted to infuse some portion of the spirit that fascinated me in hers. I remember how dissatisfied I was with the coldness of her daughter's epistles, and how delightful I thought it must be to have a correspondent like the inimitable mother. How deeply do first impressions sink into the mind! and how much may the books placed in the hands of the child influence the taste of the woman!

ORANGE, 17th.—We passed, on our route to-day, the picturesque ruins of the château de Rochemaure, which stands on an elevated pile of basaltic rocks, and has a very imposing effect. We also saw the ruins of Donzère, and the châteaux of Mont Dragon and Mornass.

But the beautiful Arch of Orange has equally surprised and delighted us. It is the first object that strikes the eye on entering the town, and is well placed on a plain a few hundred paces in front of the town, on the left of the road leading from Lyons to Avignon. It can be seen at the distance of above a mile on passing Mondragon, and has a magnificent effect. It is about sixty feet high,

nearly the same in breadth, and is built in the form of a parallelogram, with three arches; the one in the centre for carriages to pass through is large, and considerably higher than the others. The arches are bounded by fluted Corinthian pillars; and the columns, which are at each side of the centre arch, support a triangular pediment, with an attic, above which rises a very rich frieze and cornice admirably executed. The attics are ornamented by bassi-rilievi, representing combats; and the figures, though much injured by the ruthless hand of time, still retain a considerable portion of their pristine beauty and expression. On each side of the attics are trophies chiefly composed of maritime subjects, with implements of sacrifice between. Above the two less arches are military trophies with standards and flags, on which are the figures of a wild boar. On one of the bucklers in the trophy are traced the letters "ISVIJVS," and on another the word "*bete*;" also the letters "BODVACVS" and "SRE." The south front is so much dilapidated that the bassi-rilievi are nearly defaced. On some of the bucklers, however, we were able to decipher the following words, "Sacrovir, Mario, Dracono, Vd ill V S, Av. Ot.:" many of the bucklers have the letters "SRE." The frieze, which is very fine, represents the combats of gladiators, and beneath the trophies are figures of captives. On each side of the pediment are Nereids, and on the centre is the Sun, with the Cornucopia of Abundance. The interior of the arches are decorated in square compartments, with garlands of roses; and the arcades are bordered with wreaths of grapes and vine-leaves, mixed with other fruit and flowers. On the south front of the arch is a female figure, with the head resting on her hand; and as this is one of the emblems of *Marseilles*, it is supposed by some to represent that ancient city awaiting the result of the battle. Other writers assert that it is meant to personify *Marthe*, a sybil of Syria, who was a sort of tutelary guardian to *Marius*, and who, it is said, held her finger to his ear, thereby enabling him to be victorious over his enemies. *Plutarch* mentions that *Marius* had with him a woman of Syria who passed for a great prophetess, who was borne on a litter, and treated with great respect and honour. *Marius* never made a sacrifice except when she ordered it; and she might be seen carried through the camp daily. When she assisted at a sacrifice she wore a splendid mantle of purple, fastened at the throat with rich clasps, and held in her hand a staff covered with wreaths and coronets of flowers. The eastern side has been repaired, and bears an inscription stating that the repairs were carried into effect by the contributions of the corps of cross-bowmen of Orange, in the year 1706. It is generally believed that this arch was erected to *Marius*; but this conjecture admits of much doubt, as in the

ornaments there is not a single eagle to be found; and as Marius was the first person who introduced that ensign for his legion, (1) it is probable that it would not be omitted in a monument erected to him. The principal reason for attributing it to Marius is, that his name was inscribed on a buckler in one of the trophies. But this argument is futile, as several other names are also inscribed; whereas, had it been erected solely to him, his name would have been the prominent one.

Pontanus, in his *Voyage*, declares his conviction that the arch was dedicated to Domitius Aenobarbus; and states, that the name of Boduacus, visible on the east side of it, ought to be read, in Titus Livy, instead of Bituitus, or Bétultus. (2) The learned Peiresc has followed the same opinion; Mandajors, in his "*Histoire Critique de la Gaule Narbonnaise*," page 96; Spon, in his "*Voyage en Dalmatie*," tom. i., page 9; and Guibs, in his "*Journal de Trévoux*," published in 1729, have arrived at the same conclusion; and have brought to the support of their opinions no little erudition. This arch has also been attributed to Julius Cæsar; and Letbert, abbé de St. Ruf, in Avignon, in his work entitled "*Fleurs des Pseaumes*," says that it was erected in honour of Julius Cæsar, conqueror of Marseilles. This hypothesis, if well founded, might explain the introduction of naval trophies on the arch; but others assert that they bore allusion to the victory of Actium. Le Baron de la Bastie states, in "*Le Journal de Trévoux*," in 1730, pp. 12 14, his conviction that it was raised in honour of Augustus; but this assertion is only founded on the circumstance of Augustus having caused monuments to be erected to his glory in different points of his empire. Maffei, in his "*Galliæ Antiquitates*," p. 157, states his belief that this monument is of the time of Adrian. But it were equally useless as fatiguing to enumerate the various opinions of the numerous writers who have attempted to conjecture the founder of this arch; which stands a beautiful specimen of art, as well as a striking lesson to human vanity, when he to whose honour it was erected is a problematical question, never likely to be solved. Some antiquarians have maintained that the names on the bucklers were those of the chiefs of the vanquished barbarians; and that Mario, the name inscribed, was one of them. History tells us that Marius served his first campaign under Scipio Africanus, at the siege of Numantia, in the year 133 before the Christian era. The exact date of his election to be tribune of the soldiers is not known; but he was tribune of the people in the year 120 before Christ. (3) The battle of Quindalon was fought twelve

(1) Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. x. cap. 4.

(2) Itinerarium Galliæ Narbonensis.

(3) Valerius Maximus, vi. 19.

years before that era, and as many authors assert that Marius was constantly engaged in the wars, it is probable that he fought under Domitius, as tribune of the soldiers; and that for his valuable services he was next year elected tribune of the people. It has been asserted by some that this beautiful arch was erected to perpetuate the victory of Domitius, at Quindalon; and if this be true, it would not be surprising that the name of Marius, who so greatly distinguished himself under his banner, should be inscribed on this monument. But, say the antiquarians—"How are we to account for the omission of the name of the brave Marcellus, who performed so brilliant a part in that action?" Grave and reverend Signiors, I cannot furnish you with a single elucidatory conjecture on this subject, notwithstanding I have carefully perused your learned researches, and dullified myself, and will my readers—should I ever find any—by the epitome I have given of your lucubrations.

It is strange how soon the mind turns with new interest to pursuits that had previously engaged little of its thoughts! This mobility of the intellect—this power of directing it to new objects, is one of the manifold proofs of the wisdom and mercy of the Creator; as without this facility, life would soon become wearisome, and we should lose that sense of enjoyment now derived from it. It is the novelty of all that strikes the senses, which renders youth the peculiar season of delight. How happy is it then for us to retain the enviable power of finding pleasure in objects that, when in the heyday of life, might have failed to amuse or interest. I can now peruse with interest antiquarian researches which some years ago I had turned from with distaste; and, idle as the occupation may by many be deemed, it has beguiled many miles of a journey, and evenings at a comfortless inn, which might, without this resource, have hung heavily on my hands. No sooner do I see a fine piece of antiquity but I long to become acquainted with all that is known of it; nay, even before I behold, I prepare myself for the view, by a diligent perusal of the works that refer to it.

18th.—The ruins of the ancient theatre here have greatly interested me. The principal walls are still in good preservation, and enable one to judge of the building in its original state. It has been by some supposed to have been a circus; but this opinion is erroneous, as its form is a semicircle, whereas, amphitheatres were always oval. The Romans wisely took advantage of the declivities of mountains for erecting their theatres and amphitheatres, as they saved considerable expense and labour, the seats for the audience being raised in rows, one over the other, on the side of the mountain, which offered a natural site. The circular part of

the theatre at Orange, in which were the seats for the audience, is still visibly marked in the mountain, and the two extremities of the semicircle which were united by the stage. The portion of this building which joined the stage and semicircle still exists, and has a noble appearance. The walls, a hundred and eight feet high, and three hundred in length, are composed of large square stones of equal size, joined with great skill and nicety, and ornamented by two ranges of arcades and an attic. At the summit of the exterior are two rows of stones, which protrude from the wall; supposed to have been used for fastening the canvas or sail-cloth that covered the theatre, to shelter the audience from the sun or rain. The exterior of the theatre is in an extraordinary degree of preservation, and presents a striking and imposing effect; but the interior retains nothing of its pristine grandeur: part of it being converted into a prison, and the rest employed as a receptacle for rubbish, and for the scarcely less degrading purpose of supplying habitations for the mendicants with which Orange is filled. What a contrast does the present state and uses of this building present to its original destination! Here, where the comedies of Plautus and Terence were enacted, we behold only the most disgusting details of poverty and uncleanness; and where sat the proud and warlike Roman leaders, troops of squalid children and half-starved dogs disport.

To examine the interior of one of the vomitories of the theatre, we were compelled to enter the abode of wretchedness into which a portion of the building has been converted. Nothing could exceed the dirt, except the misery of the habitation: it was of Cimmerian darkness, and the lamp carried before us threw a lurid gloom over the black walls and visage of the beldame who led us through the gloomy passages, and up the various flights of steps: giving to her weird and haggard face something so unearthly, that it required but little stretch of the imagination to fancy her some ancient sybil, muttering incantations as she strode on, pointing out with violent gestures, and in tones whose intonations were painfully harsh, the objects worthy of notice in her wretched abode.

In one of the sombre and confined passages stood a miserable bed, to which she told us custom had so inured her son, that he preferred it to any other dormitory. The slumbers of this child of poverty are unbroken by any recollections of the former grandeur of the building in which he resides. Here, where the antiquary or philosopher would find ample food for reflection, he drags on the even tenour of his existence, satisfied if he can but procure a scanty and unsavoury repast to appease his hunger.

The walls of this theatre are of extraordinary thickness, and the stairs are of so massive a structure as to seem formed to bid

defiance to time. We saw the ruins of an amphitheatre, some baths, and an aqueduct; and many of the streets offer interesting fragments of antiquity to the curious traveller.

AVIGNON, 20th.—There is poetry and romance in the name; or, at least, in the associations it calls up. Petrarch; with the power that appertains to genius alone, has invested this place with an interest for all who can appreciate the beauty of his works; and we view Avignon with different feelings to those with which we regard more attractive towns. The approach to Avignon is imposing: the high towers of the ancient palace, with their rich and warm-toned hue of brown, rise above the walls of the city; and many a spire and steeple give beauty to the picture, which is crowned by Villeneuve, seen in the distance. The battlemented walls are flanked by square towers, erected at regular distances, and have seven gates.

The Rhône is nowhere seen to greater advantage than here, where it sweeps along with a rapidity and grandeur that gives the boats that glide over it the appearance of being hurried on by some irresistible influence: like those vessels we read of in fairy tales, that skim the waters with magical swiftness, but cannot retard their course. The ruins of the ancient bridge, with a chapel in the centre, have a very picturesque effect; and the sound of the rushing, arrowy Rhône, as it is dashed against the stones, has a melancholy in it well suited to the *triste* character of this silent and nearly deserted place. Mont Ventoux, which is said to be the highest mountain in France, rises to the north of Avignon, its sides glowing with all the varied hues of vegetation, while its summit is veiled in snow; and on the south, the horizon is bounded by the chain of blue mountains of the Angles and the Issarts. The *Rocher de Don*, which we explored to-day, commands a fine view of the town and a magnificent one of the surrounding country. The plains of Languedoc, rich in mulberry and olive trees, and sprinkled with undulating hills, covered with vineyards, look like a vast garden spread over the country, and to the east are seen the abrupt and sterile rocks of Vaucluse, forming a fine contrast to the fertile scene they bound.

Never did I behold a more glorious sunset than this evening: the river was crimsoned with its rich reflection, and all the objects around were tinged by its brilliant rays. Who could believe, while beholding it, that this was the gloomy month of November, notwithstanding that the *vent de bise* reminds one it is not summer.

We were much amused this morning by a visit from the poet laureate of Avignon, to present a congratulatory ode on our arrival. The poem was as poor as its author, which is saying not a

little ; for poverty was stamped on every lineament of his careworn face, and threadbare garments. He has for many years welcomed every traveller whose appearance indicated the power of remunerating the distinction with a similar felicitation : nay, people are malicious enough to assert, that the same poem, inserting merely a change of name, answers for every English family. The poor poet retired happy in the possession of our donation ; and left us wondering if, as he stated, he lived by his wits, how he could exist on so slender a capital.

21st.—Walked round the walls. Though deficient in strength for the purpose for which they were designed, they add much to the beauty of the town. They were built by Pope Innocent VI., in 1358, as a protection from the attacks of the banditti.

Went over the Papal Palace, which, though now in a state of comparative ruin, is still worthy of inspection. It is surrounded by high walls, flanked by towers, and was formerly strongly fortified. The cathedral nearly joins it, being only separated by a building now in ruins. The palace is a gothic edifice, and contains numerous suites of rooms, some of which, and particularly those occupied by the vice-legates, were very splendid, if we may judge by the paintings that still decorate the walls and ceilings. Part of this once noble episcopal residence is converted into a barrack ; and the rest is used as a prison. Strange reverse of destiny ! that a mansion raised by the head of the papal church, and which was supposed to be the temple where the God of Peace was to be worshipped, should become the abode of the votaries of war and crime ! The apartments where once the stately fathers enjoyed their dignified seclusion, with, perhaps, more of the pomps, vanities, and luxuries of life, than became the followers of their meek and lowly Master, are now the mess-room and dormitories of the soldiers ; who bestow little thought on the original destination of the building, except to mock its former inhabitants. The long aisles, through which the pealing organ often reverberated, now echo the coarse laugh of the soldiers, or the gloomy murmurs of the weary captives. In the most ruinous part of the palace we were shown the chambers of the inquisition, with the devious passages, formed in the deep walls, and impervious to the light of day. The halls of examination, and the places of torture, whose walls were so massive as to exclude the sounds of anguish of the victims, and the fearful abyss called the Glacière, constructed in the wall, and communicating with the place of torture by a large aperture, were pointed out to us ; as well as another gulf of a similar description, but of less dimensions, seemingly constructed for deeds of darkness. It is asserted that the inquisition at Avignon was always extremely mild in its decrees, and that torture was rarely

applied. But there is something so repugnant to the feelings of a native of dear, free, happy England, in secret charges, and private punishments, that I could not view without shuddering, places designed for such uses, even though led to believe they had not been sullied by such cruelties. But if, in the day of papal power, these dreary walls have not echoed the groans of torture, or shrieks of despair, what dreadful scenes have they not witnessed in the eventful period of the Revolution! In the chamber of torture, hundreds where massacred, and flung into the Glacière, the interior of which still retains many an ensanguined stain.

Reflecting on the fearful deeds of that Revolution, purchased with the blood of thousands, well might one exclaim, with Madame Roland, as she apostrophised the statue of the Goddess of Liberty, on her road to the scaffold, "Oh, Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name!"

One of the gentlemen who accompanied us through the palace, pointed out a chamber in which his father was for many months a prisoner, during the troubled days of that dreadful epoch, when he daily expected to be led to a violent death. He told us that he paid a yearly visit to this melancholy spot; in order to appreciate more highly the blessing of living free from the apprehension of being exposed to any similar calamity, to that of which he was formerly a spectator; nay more, a partaker, from sympathy with the sufferings of a parent.

The recollections of the terrible Revolution seem fraught with horror to those whom I have encountered who can remember it. Not even the long lapse of years that has occurred since its close can efface the memory of its terrors from their minds; and, judging from their conversation, my impression is, that they would submit to any species of monarchical despotism, in preference to braving the dangers of a revolution. Nor can this be wondered at, when one reflects on the scenes they have witnessed. The tyranny of a democracy is enough to convert to absolutism (or, more properly speaking, absoluteness) the veriest fanatic of liberty that ever dreamt of the Utopia of a republic, in countries where other governments had long subsisted.

The mint is opposite the principal entrance of the palace. It is now occupied by the gendarmerie, and is a building in the very worst style of architecture of the time of Louis XIII. Two figures, meant to personify angels, decorate the front of the mint. They support a shield covered with *fleurs-de-lys*, surmounted by a crown. The figures are more grotesque than can be imagined; and to add to their manifold imperfections, have a cloven foot each. Dragons and hydras dire, with other fabulous monsters, are placed between festoons of flowers mixed with fruit, the

ensemble forming a perfect specimen of *rococo*; a word for which our language has no synonyme, but which is expressive of the union of finery and bad taste.

23rd.—Yesterday, visited the celebrated fountain of Vaucluse, immortalised by Petrarch. It is within a morning's ride of Avignon, and possesses sufficient natural attractions, independent of its poetical associations, to repay one for the trouble of going. The valley of Vaucluse is extremely narrow, and bounded by high rocks of a brownish grey tint: their sombre hue is in some places relieved by olive and fig trees, with scattered vines, but there is still a great want of wood to break the dull uniformity of the cliffs; the colour of which is cold, and not sufficiently varied to produce a fine effect. In the time of Petrarch, those gigantic rocks were only seen at intervals, breaking out of large masses of wood, with which the valley was nearly covered; and which softened the character of the scenery that now presents a wild and savage aspect. After winding for some way among the crags, the road terminates at the village of Vaucluse, which is most romantically situated; and a broad path formed on the ledge of the rocky chain that bound the river, which here fills the centre of the valley, leads to the celebrated fountain which was the Helicon of Petrarch. The valley is here closed by a perpendicular crag of immense height; within which, is the cavern whence springs the fountain. The entrance to this cavern is above sixty feet high; and it is screened by rocks which intercept all view of it until it is neared. The fountain fills a vast basin of circular form, at the base of the perpendicular cliff that terminates this part of the valley.

At a short distance from its source the stream falls rapidly over huge fragments of rocks, covered with a vivid green mass of aquatic plants and herbs; which gives to this limpid and sparkling water, the appearance of a river of emeralds. After precipitating itself with impetuous force over the rocks, it is formed into a river, which rushes along the vale with exceeding velocity. The borders of the fountain abound with wild thyme of a delicious fragrance; and it only requires a little of the poetic fancy which gives to Italian poetry so many of its concetti, to imagine that it owes its odour to the tears with which the love-lorn Petrarch, that phoenix of lovers, so frequently bedewed this spot, when bewailing the inexorable cruelty of his Laura.

As I stood on the spot where he so often reposed, I thought of the passage,

“Amor col rimembrar sol mi mantiene—
Ed io son di quel che il planger giova—
Ed io desio,
Che le lagrime mie si spargan sole.”

The memories of few heroines have been more unkindly dealt by

than that of Laura. Not only has her virtue been suspected, but even her very existence has been doubted ; and there are still sceptics to be found who assert that she was less cruel towards Petrarch than his complaints imply ; while others maintain that the subject of his muse existed only in his own excited imagination. The question relative to the identity of Laura, so long a subject of cavil, was put an end to by the Abbé de Sade having, in the year 1760, discovered in his family archives some contracts and testamentary documents, which have satisfied even the most sceptical of those who doubted her existence, that Laura, daughter of Audibert de Noves, and wife of Hugh de Sade, was the object of Petrarch's passion. She was married in her eighteenth year, and Petrarch saw her for the first time at the church of St. Claire, at Avignon, two years after. The House of Noves held the first rank at the town of that name, situated at a short distance from Avignon ; and the family of de Sade filled important offices at the last-mentioned place. The peasants at Vaucluse point out the spot where the château of Laura stood ; but the life and writings of Petrarch furnish abundant proofs that his seclusion was never cheered by her actual presence, although her ideal one continually floated in his mind's eye. Madame Deshoulières, in her "*Épître sur Vaucluse*," (1) supposes Laura to have soothed, if not rewarded, the passion she created ; a supposition as little creditable to the delicacy of the French poetess as to the honour of the wrongly accused Laura ; for there is no line in Petrarch's writings that implies a single instance of the absence of that rectitude and decorum, of which he relates so many examples, and against the cruelty of which he breathes such complaints. The Abbé Delille too, in his "*Jardins*," chant 3, indulges in hypothetical surmises on this point ; though he is less coarse in them—Oh ! shame to her sex!—than his countrywoman. He questions the grotto where he imagines them to have reposed : absurdly enough attributing the scene where Petrarch retired to lament the cruelty of his lady-love, to have been that which witnessed the indulgence of his guilty passion. The letters of Petrarch, as well as his poetry, exhibit, to the calm and not impure mind, irrefragable proofs that his passion for Laura, if not always Platonic, at least never received any reward inconsistent with modesty from her. When

- (1) "*Dans cet antre profond, où, sans d'autre témoins,
 Laure sut par de tendre soins
 De l'amoureux Pétrarque adoucir le martyre ;
 Dans cet antre, où l'amour tant de fois fut vainqueur,
 Il exprima si bien sa peine, son ardeur,
 Que Laure, malgré sa rigueur,
 L'écouta, plaignit sa teneur,
 Et fit peut-être plus encore.*"

he utters the following lines, they cannot surely be taken for other than the murmurs of despair, produced by her rigour :—

“ Se sapessi per morte essere scarco
 Del pensier amoroso che mi atterra,
 Con le mie mani avrei già posto in terra
 Quesle membra dogliose e quello incarco ;
 Ma perch' lo temo che sarebbe un vereo,
 Di pianto in pianto, e d' una in altra guerra.”

Again, surely the following breathes not of happy love :—

“ La vita fugge e non s'arresta un' ora ;
 E la morte vien dietro a gran giornale ;
 E le cose presenti e le passate
 Mi danno guerra, e le future ancora :
 E l' rimembrar e l' aspellar m' accora,
 Or quiuci, or quindi sì, che 'n veritate,
 Se non ch' i' ho di me stesso pietate,
 I' sarei già di questi pensier fora.
 Tornami avanti s' alcun dolce mai
 Ebbe l' cor tristo ; e poi dall' altra parte,
 Veggio al mio navigar lurbati i venti.
 Veggio fortuna in porto, e stanco omai
 Il mio nocchier, e rotte arbore e sarte,
 E i lumi bei che mirar soglio, spenti.”

It is true that Petrarch, in his dialogue with St. Augustin, admits that his passion for Laura was of too warm and violent a nature to be indulged without remorse ; but this confession does not necessarily imply guilt. A man of a religious turn of mind, as Petrarch is known to have been, must have felt compunction at the consciousness of abandoning his heart to so engrossing a passion for a married woman, without that compunction being occasioned by any deeper sin. It is impossible to wander along the banks of the limpid Sorga, or to recline by the fountain of Vaucluse, without dwelling with reverence on the memory of him who has immortalized both. As one of the principal restorers of literature to his country ; as a fearless censurer of the vices of the papal court—a court anxious to purchase his silence by its gifts ; and as a writer of exquisite taste and profound erudition, Petrarch has strong claims on the respect of posterity ; even without the generally admitted one of his harmonious and refined poetry, which was so well calculated to correct the prevailing licentiousness of the age in which he lived. Even his passion for Laura, however it might be esteemed a weakness, was calculated to raise a more respectful sentiment of admiration for the female sex : and when her increased age, and diminished charms, had not power to extinguish the flame ;—nay, when death itself could not subdue it, we must admire and marvel at the force and durability of his feelings.

The ruins now shown by the peasants as the site of the château of "Madame Laure," as they call her, were those of the castle, in which the Bishop of Cavaillon, the dear friend of Petrarch, resided. They stand to the right of the fountain, boldly placed on a pile of stupendous rocks, and command a magnificent view. The walls are on the very verge of the precipice, which overlooks a vast expanse of mountains, rocks, groves of olive trees, and vineyards; while, in the immediate foreground, the fountain, with its sparkling waters and snowy foam, reflecting innumerable prismatic hues as the rays of the sun play on it, forms a magical picture. The cataract created by the rocks over which the water rushes from the fountain, is, when the fountain is filled, truly grand. The spray rises in huge masses, resembling immense flakes of snow. As they are impelled into the air, and descend again with surprising velocity, they are tinged with the brightest tints of a rainbow, and mingling with the snowy foam and vivid green water, have a beautiful effect.

How many great men were drawn to Vaucluse by the desire of conversing with Petrarch! Here came Robert, the good king of Naples, with his fair queen, and attended by a brilliant train of courtiers. It was this sovereign who exclaimed, that were he compelled to make the sacrifice of his crown or his love of letters, he would prefer resigning the former. Few men were ever so much esteemed and beloved by their contemporaries as was Petrarch; and few could have borne the applause and honours lavished on him with such equanimity and meekness. His friends were among the most distinguished of his countrymen; and neither jealousy, nor envy, seems to have ever interrupted any of the attachments he formed, which were as remarkable for their warmth as for their durability.

In the village of Vaucluse is a small inn called the Hotel of Petrarch and Laura. Here sentimental tourists stop to regale themselves on the delicious trout which the river furnishes; giving, between every morsel of the luscious fare, a sigh to the memory of the celebrated lovers, whose busts decorate the mantel-piece of the chamber where the refecton is served. Those travellers who command the most luxurious repasts are considered by the inmates to possess the most sensibility; and those who submit without resistance to extortion, are esteemed to be mirrors of sentimentality: a regulation of which our worthy hostess made us aware, by the warmth of her praises of those who expended what she considers a proper sum, and the severity of her strictures against the more economical or less wealthy visitors. The English, she vowed, were the most sentimental people alive. It was delightful, she said, to see them sit for hours at table, with their eyes turned

towards the busts of Petrarch and Laura, and sighing, while they washed down their repast with bumpers to the memory of the lovers. They (the English) never squabbled about the items in the bill. No! they were too noble-minded for that: they were wholly engrossed by tender recollections. Of the Germans, Russians, Italians, and even of her compatriots, the French, she spoke less kindly. "Would you believe it, madam," continued she, "many of them pass this inn—yes, *the* inn—sacred to the memory of Petrarch and Laura, without ever crossing its threshold; and the few who do, draw from their pockets biscuits, and demand only a glass of *eau sucrée*? They ought to be ashamed of themselves, unfeeling creatures! How do they imagine we are to exist, paying, as we do, a heavy rent for this inn, and the sensibility of the visitors to the fountain, being the only means of making it profitable. But most people now-a-days have no heart; ay, and no stomach also, or they could not come here without melancholy feelings, which naturally beget an appetite; for though the old proverb only says that sorrow is thirsty, I maintain that it is hungry too; having observed that the dear English, who showed the most *tristesse*, always were disposed to do honour to the plentiful collations they commanded. *They* did not go *jabber*, *jabber*, like the rest of the visitors who come here; nor did they pass *mauvaises plaisanteries* on the respectable countenances of Monsieur Petrarch and Madame Laure, as too many do. No, they said little, and looked sad; but they relished the trout of Vaucluse in a manner that proved their tenderness for *him* who gave the fountain its fame." Our hostess became so animated in her eulogium of the English, that she heeded not the reproving looks of her husband; who, observing that two of our party were French, was fearful of her giving them offence. At last, somewhat piqued by her obstinate continuation of this apparently impolitic praise *malgré* his glances, he said,

"You forget, *ma chère*, when you talk of the English never passing any *mauvaises plaisanteries* on the respectable countenances of Monsieur Petrarch and Madame Laure, the two *mauvais sujets*, that, with a burnt cork, gave a pair of large black mustachios to Madame Laure, and, with a red chalk, made the nose of Monsieur Petrarch redder than a tomato; ay, and gave him a pair of spectacles too. Why, it took me full two hours to get them clean again!"

"Well, then, if they did, in the innocent gaiety naturally excited by two bottles of your best champagne, take a little liberty with the faces of the busts, did they not throw you down twenty francs extra to pay, as they said, for white-washing the faces?"

28th.—Avignon is really an agreeable place to persons who do not require the excitements peculiar to a great capital. The climate

is good, except when the *mistral* sets in; but even then, though the wind is remarkably cold, it is rarely accompanied by rain, and the sky is as bright and unclouded as in summer. House-rent is extremely moderate here; a fine suite of apartments in a good hotel—by which I mean a private house of large dimensions, all such being designated as hotels—may be had, well furnished, for about fifty guineas a-year; and provisions of every kind are abundant, and may be purchased on reasonable terms. The country abounds with vineyards, and their produce serves the double purpose of warming externally as well as internally, the stems and branches of the vine being used for firing. The odour, however, which they emit during combustion, is rather disagreeable; at least, I find it so, although the inhabitants like it. The inn, *L'Hôtel de l'Europe*, at which we have taken up our abode, is a very good one; and Madame Pieron, its mistress, leaves nothing undone to secure the comfort of her guests. This inn was, many years ago, the scene of an incident that gave rise to the comedy of the Deaf Lover, a piece which has had great success. Monsieur Pieron, the son of our hostess, a valetudinarian, whose health admits not of attending to business, devotes his time to literary pursuits and antiquarian researches, the fruits of which are always at the service of those who seek his conversation. He peculiarly piques himself on his knowledge of the English language; his pronunciation of which, however, joined to the habit of employing only the most erudite words, renders it difficult, if not impossible, to comprehend his discourse. He has read many English authors, and prefers the most pedantic, whose phraseology he has studied and adopted. But having conversed comparatively little with English people, his pronunciation of the difficult words he employs, has a most ludicrous effect.

29th.—Our banker, Monsieur de L. and Madame *son épouse*, have been to call on us. They have invited us to their house, which they open once a-week to receive *le beau monde* of Avignon. Monsieur de L. appears well educated and sensible; and Madame has that ease of manner, joined to a desire to please, peculiar to her countrywomen. They have offered us books, but of them we find no lack, having a large supply with us; and Avignon, among its other *agrémens*, possessing a good circulating library. Rode out to-day; the weather very fine, the atmosphere clear, and not colder than the end of September in England.

30th.—Rode a considerable distance to-day, but the country around Avignon is, for the most part, so flat and uninteresting, as to offer little temptation to explore it. The peasantry here, are a well-looking and healthy race; the men active and lively, with

animated countenances ; but the women, though generally possessing good features and fine hair, are so ill shaped as to appear deformed. This defect is chiefly owing to their having their waists so short, that their petticoats are tied under their arms, which has a most disagreeable effect. They wear large hats, of a circular form, which serve as a parasol in summer, and an umbrella in winter ; somewhat on the principle of the Irish peasant's inseparable great-coat, which, as he asserts, keeps *out* the heat in summer, and keeps it *in*, in winter. Beneath this large hat, the women wear a transparent handkerchief, of a brown and yellow pattern, which passes over the forehead, and shades the eyes from the scorching beams of the summer's sun, and the not less destructive effects of the mistraels, or *vent de bise*, to which they are exposed at all seasons.

It is strange that the inhabitants of the south of France, although more liable to diseases of the eyes than those of any other part, from the extreme heat and glare of the sun, as well as the pernicious influence of the mistraels, invariably use umbrellas of a deep rose colour, which must be very injurious to the sight, from the red shade they cast. On a wet day, the streets resemble vast beds of damask roses put in motion, and have a fantastic and pretty effect.

December 1st.—Went to see the hôtel de Crillon, the residence of him to whom the epithet *Brave*, always applied, gives a lustre to his memory that time cannot destroy. How characteristic of, and honourable to, both the sovereign and subject was the letter written by Henri Quatre to Crillon : “ *Pends-toi, brave Crillon ! nous avons combattu à Arques, et tu n'y étais pas.* ” This noble mansion was much injured during the Revolution ; since that epoch it has been sold, and is at present divided into two : but though its pristine splendour is greatly impaired, it still retains many marks of its former grandeur. The principal *façade* has been repaired, and is remarkably fine : the architraves of the door and windows are ornamented with bold and well executed bassi-relievi ; but owing to the extreme narrowness of the street in which the house stands, this beautiful *façade* is seen to little advantage. The vestibule is paved with marble of a mosaic pattern, and though injured, still displays some portion of its original beauty : and the inner salon and entrance, which is of vast dimensions, has some of its panels left, which attest the richness of its former decorations. The gallery, which opens on a colonnade roofed with well-executed ornaments, in cut stone, is entered from this apartment : its only ornaments are some old busts, placed on curious brackets. The principal suite of rooms fronts the garden, which bears marks of having been worthy the mansion. The great salon on the ground

floor contains a curious and very handsome mantel-piece of enormous dimensions, supported by caryatides representing colossal females. It is executed in so bold a style that it conveys an impression of the liberal spirit of the brave owner of the hotel; and on beholding its ample hearth, the mind is carried back to the olden time, and to the princely hospitality of Crillon, when whole forests blazed to give a warm welcome to his gallant sovereign. The delicacy and good taste of Crillon were admirably conspicuous in the manner of his reception of Henri Quatre in this mansion. That monarch having signified his intention of visiting Avignon, was entreated by Crillon to honour his hotel, by taking up his abode there during his stay. Henri declined, not wishing to put his favourite to the heavy expense of entertaining him and his suite; and declared his determination of resting at the principal auberge. Crillon, comprehending the motive of his sovereign, immediately placed over the door of his hotel the sign of the *Fleur de Lis*, with the following inscription :

BON LOGIS
AUX
FLEURS DE LIS.

Afterwards, he arranged that the king should be conducted to, and received at the hotel Crillon, as if it were an inn; and Henri never discovered the delicate deception until he entered the *grand salon*, the magnificence of which undeceived him. We were shown the chamber in which the monarch slept. The alcove in which his bed was placed is still divided from the room by the same massive gilded balustrade that was erected for his reception, and the ceiling of the chamber retains much of its beauty. One could fancy the gallant Henri in this chamber, waited on by his no less gallant soldier, who with manly courtesy did the honours of his house.

What very different associations do two of the most remarkable monarchs of France call up in the mind, Henri Quatre and Louis Quatorze ! The courage and frankness of the first, make posterity regard his memory with affection ; nay, his gallantries receive a toleration never accorded to those of other sovereigns. He may be considered as " the chartered libertine " of the olden time ; for those who dared not praise, refused to censure his errors. But the vain-glorious Louis, whose campaigns were not less ostentatious than his amours, and whose victories in war, as in love, were little due to his personal merit, excites but a trifling interest in our minds : and though sung by Boileau, and bepraised by all his principal contemporaries, is seldom referred to by posterity, except in conjunction with the splendid furniture, and the equally glittering but flagrant profligacy, which formed the two principal features of his reign.

2nd.—We visited the tomb of Laura, or rather, I should say, the site of it, to-day. It is in a garden which now occupies the place of the church of the Cordeliers, of which only a portion of the ruins remains. The spot is marked by a few stunted cypresses planted around it, with some flowering shrubs. One is surprised that the people of Avignon have not erected a simple monument over the grave, or even a stone to point out the spot; and it is the more surprising, as many of the inhabitants are remarkable for their love of literature. Perhaps they imagine, and with reason, that in the poesy of Petrarch, Laura has found a more beautiful and indestructible monument, than they could erect to her memory.

3rd.—M. de L. took us to-day to see “the *Grand Hôpital*,” as it is called. It is a fine building with a magnificent *façade*, and holds a vast many, I forget the precise number, of patients. The rooms are spacious, well ventilated, and perfectly clean; and nothing can exceed the good order with which all the arrangements are conducted in this establishment. Two apartments, of large dimensions, are appropriated to patients whose diseases are not infectious. They contain rows of beds extending from one end of the apartments to the other, each being divided by a window. The name of the patient is attached to his bed; on a shelf, at the head of which, is placed every article appropriated to his use. The beds are scrupulously clean: and the linen and pillows as white as any to be found in the best houses. The two large apartments contained, on an average, not less than a hundred patients in each; yet not the slightest disagreeable odour was perceptible, nor the least symptom of a disgusting nature. At the end of the largest apartment is an altar, at which a religious service is daily performed. This chamber communicates, by very large folding-doors, with the entrance hall; the whole forming an extent of some hundred feet, *en suite*. The patients were quiet and orderly in their demeanour, many of them occupied in reading; and though some looked grave, none appeared discontented. How blessed is the charity that extends succour, to those whose poverty denies them the power of alleviating, or healing the physical sufferings to which mankind are subjected! Who that visits such institutions as the one I this day saw, could refuse to contribute his mite to support them? The rich, who can nurse disease on pillows of down, and administer to its wants “with all the appliances of wealth,” know how difficult it is to be borne; and that, though pomp may be physicked, the potion is not less nauseous from being offered in cups of gold. But they ought to feel, and the mass, God be thanked, *do* feel, that the suffering poor should be shielded in their hour of need; and public and private charities attest the willingness to relieve them. It required all the cleanliness and

good order of the hospital I saw to-day, to counteract the depression occasioned by beholding so many fellow mortals assailed by disease ; and by the reflection that they were all away from their homes and hearths, and those near and dear to them, to which persons never turn so fondly as when subdued by physical suffering. The fond wife, the devoted mother, the tender sister, or the duteous daughter, were not there to whisper comfort, or to look hope. But they were, perhaps, thought of more frequently and affectionately, as their presence was missed by those accustomed to share their attentions ; and charity (may it be thrice blessed !) supplied what poverty could not at home furnish ; the knowledge of which consoled the absent.

5th.—Rode to the Pont du Gard yesterday—a splendid monument of antiquity. It is sixteen miles from Avignon, and worth going a hundred to see. It unites two steep and rocky hills, between which the river Gardon flows rapidly along its steep and abrupt banks, covered with wild shrubs, mingled with fig and olive trees. The country around is picturesque ; and the magnificent structure which crowns the scene, renders it one of the most imposing and beautiful imaginable—just such a one as Claude Lorrain would have loved to paint. This noble pile consists of three tiers of arches, forming a height of two hundred feet above the river. The length is estimated at eight hundred feet, taking a sloping direction, its extremities resting on the rocks at each side of the river. The principal tier, which is the middle, consists of eleven arches, the height of which in the centre, appears to be about eighty feet. The upper tier, which supports the channel through which the water passed, has thirty-five arches, which are twenty feet high. The bridge annexed to this aqueduct is of modern construction, and is infinitely inferior to the ancient building ; but seen at a distance, it adds considerably to the effect of the whole. The blocks of stone with which the Roman works were constructed are so stupendous, that we are led to imagine that the beings who wielded such materials, must have been as superior in physical force to the present race of men, as are the monuments they erected, to our modern buildings. The Romans, like the Egyptians, seem to have thought of future ages, when they constructed their massive edifices ; while we, in a most egotistical spirit, appear to build as if we had only a lease of our lives, and cared not for our posterity. The works of the aqueduct of the Pont du Gard extended through a course of twenty-six miles, conveying water from two fountains near Usez, into Nismes. The conduit through which the water passed was lined with a mastic cement, which is still in a wonderful degree of preservation. We were enabled, by stooping a little, to walk with ease through this

conduit. The date of this fine structure is not known, but it bears the initials A. Æ. A., which are supposed to signify, Aquæductus Ælii Adriani.

7th.—A long ride in the country yesterday prevented my writing. The olive trees begin to look very sombre. One of the most tasteful residences I have seen since I left Paris, is the *Maison la Pallière*, which we went over to-day. It contains a gallery of pictures, some of which are worth inspection; and a collection of casts of many of the best statues of antiquity. The drawing-room is of an elliptical shape, divided into equal compartments by pillars, each compartment being filled by a mirror. The doors and windows have mirrors to correspond; and busts and vases, placed on marble pedestals, are ranged round the room. The whole has a singular, but pleasing effect; and the apartment must look very brilliant when lighted up.

8th.—We had a good specimen of a provincial *soirée* last night, at Madame de L.'s, where all the *beau monde* of Avignon were assembled. Eight o'clock for an evening party, sounded strangely to our ears, that being about the hour we sit down to dinner in London; but here, it is the general hour of reunion. The Hotel de L. is a very fine one; the rooms spacious and tastefully furnished, remarkably well lighted, and containing several good works of art. One card-table was set out for some of the elderly guests; but the rest amused themselves with music and conversation; both very good of their kind. We had duets, which were sung in a style of excellence that would not have shamed first-rate professional performers; and which had a peculiar charm for me, as indicating the perfect harmony not only of the voices, but of the lives of the singers; for nothing but the habit of very frequently practising together, could have rendered their notes so beautifully attuned. Indeed, it was gratifying to observe the extreme cordiality that subsisted between the persons assembled,—all, with the exception of ourselves, old friends and neighbours, who are in the habit of meeting every evening during the winter, at each other's houses. The French possess the talent of conversation in a rare degree; their apprehension and comprehension are quick, their flow of words ready and vivacious, and their manners are distinguished by a desire to please, that half accomplishes its aim. They are, for the most part, well informed on the general subjects of interest. With the light literature of their own country they cultivate a familiar acquaintance; but their knowledge, though versatile, is rarely profound. They can talk agreeably on most topics, but instructively on few. They have the address of bringing into exhibition the whole stock of their knowledge, leaving nothing unseen; like those small dealers, who display the greater

part of their wares in the windows of their shops, reserving no store on their shelves. In fine, they are witty, playful and brilliant, but rarely, if ever, thoughtful, and never thoroughly erudite. Of humour, they appear to be not only deficient, but ignorant. A *bon mot*, an epigram, or a lively sally, they comprehend at a glance; but broad or sly humour, which is so well understood, and duly appreciated in England, has no attraction for them. I refer, of course, to the many; there may be, and I doubt not, are, very numerous exceptions to be found in the more studious and reflecting of both sexes; but these classes seldom enter society.

But to return to the *soirée* of Madame de L.; among many distinguished persons who were assembled, the individual who the most particularly excited my attention was Madame de Villume, the celebrated Mademoiselle Sombreuil, whose celebrity is among the most honourable that ever was acquired by woman—the heroic discharge of the duties of a daughter in the face of danger and of death. Her father was *gouverneur des Invalides* at the commencement of the Revolution; and displayed a firmness and courage, as well as a devotion to his sovereign, worthy of example. He was arrested and cast into prison soon after the memorable 10th of August; and on the 2nd of September was on the point of being massacred by the sanguinary assassins who immolated so many noble victims: when his young and lovely daughter threw herself between him and them, and clasping him in her arms, offered her fragile person as a shield against their weapons. Her youth, her beauty, and her self-abnegation, touched even the callous hearts of the murderous band; but even their mercy was marked by a refinement in cruelty not to be surpassed by the most atrocious examples handed down from the dark ages. They consented to spare the life of her father provided she would, on the spot, drink a goblet of the human gore fast pouring from the slaughtered victims around! She swallowed the fearful draught: and saw her father led back to prison; whence, in June, 1794, he was consigned to the scaffold, by the revolutionary tribunal: more cruel than the sanguinary band from whose vengeance his daughter had rescued him. Madame de Villume is wife to the General of that name, and is as remarkable for the exemplary discharge of all the duties of life as of those of her filial ones. She is still strikingly handsome, though her countenance is tinged with a soft melancholy that denotes the recollection of the bitter trials of her youth. Her complexion is peculiarly delicate, her hair fair, and her features small and regular; her manners are dignified and gentle, and her voice soft and sweet. She is exceedingly beloved at Avignon, and universally treated with a respectful deference, that marks the profound admiration which her filial piety has

excited. I was told that she shrinks from the slightest allusion to her youthful trials, and cannot bear to look on red wine, which is never brought into her presence.

10th.—I have been hearing an interesting account of the family of Sombreuil, in which it appears that a chivalrous spirit, and irreproachable conduct, have been hereditary. Her brother Stanislaus de Sombreuil ascended the scaffold at the same time as his noble father; but her second brother, Charles de Sombreuil, was reserved to furnish a brilliant example of a heroism seldom witnessed in modern times, and worthy of a Caractacus. In one of the tumults which so often disgraced Paris during the early part of the Revolution, he, at the imminent risk of his life, rescued one of the Polignacs from the sanguinary mob. Compelled at a later period to emigrate, he entered the Prussian army, where he soon achieved a military feat that gained him the Order of Merit, conferred on the field of battle. With only four hussars he took a convoy defended by an escort of a hundred men! He continued to distinguish himself during the campaign of 1793 on the borders of the Rhine, and in 1794 acquired a brilliant reputation in Holland. After the evacuation of Holland he proceeded to England, where a strong effort was making to send an expedition to assist the royalist party in Bretagne and Poitou. The great *armée de la Vendée*, with its most able chiefs, had been destroyed; but Charrette, Stofflet, and other officers of the Chouans, had concluded an armistice with the republican government, by which they were permitted to retain their arms. The death of Robespierre, and the disgust which the atrocious cruelties practised by the revolutionists had excited, seemed to present a favourable occasion for the emigrants to make an attempt in favour of the monarchical cause.

To Charles de Sombreuil was confided the command of the second division of the emigrant army, who were to effect a descent on Bretagne. Four thousand men, with whom he had served in Holland, were placed under his orders. He went to Hanover, where they were reviewed, and made all the necessary arrangements for their embarkation; then returned to England to wed the object of a long and tender attachment, the charming *Mademoiselle De La Blanche*. The moment so long and passionately desired, of calling her his, had arrived—the actual day that was to have witnessed their nuptials had dawned—when an express arrived to tell the impatient lover that the fleet with his army was at Spithead, the wind favourable, and the troops ardently longing for him to lead them. He tore himself from his betrothed, who was ready to accompany him to the altar, when he went to bid her an eternal adieu; and left her in her bridal robes, to weep the departure of the hero who could sacrifice love to duty. On arriving

at Quiberon he found all in confusion. A jealousy between two of the chiefs, to whom the command of the first division had been confided, led to the most disastrous results. The Chouans would only obey one of their rival chiefs, and the soldiers the other; while the successes of General Hoche impaired the confidence of both parties, and for some time withheld them from assuming more than a defensive position at Quiberon. An attempt made by one of the chiefs to attack St. Barbe, a fortified post occupied by the republicans, failed; and in its failure involved serious consequences, for it encouraged General Hoche to undertake to surprise the Fort Penhièvre, an enterprise in which, aided by deserters from the emigrant army, he succeeded; for they not only acquainted him with their force and resources, but guided the attack. One of the chiefs of the royalist army was mortally wounded; the other, seeing that all was lost, and that the troops refused to submit to his orders, embarked, leaving Charles de Sombreuil in command. This noble and gallant soldier, who had no part in the disasters of which he was doomed to become the victim, saw that without artillery or ammunition, both being seized in the Fort Penhièvre, all hope was at an end; and the republican army, infuriated by the resistance they had met, were rapidly approaching the coast, where Sombreuil and his troops were stationed. The English fleet, which had conveyed Sombreuil and his troops to Quiberon, still floated at a short distance from the shore, and nothing was more easy than for him to have regained it; but, with that chivalrous spirit which had always characterised his family, he spurned the thought of deserting his companions in danger. Hoche with his troops arrived; the greater number of the soldiers of Sombreuil deserted to him; and Sombreuil, to save the rest, capitulated. Hoche treated him with marked respect; but Blad and Tallien, who were sent by the Convention, were less generous. The only favours he demanded at their hands was, to accept the sacrifice of his life as an expiation for his soldiers, and to be permitted, on his parole, to go on board the British flag-ship, to acquaint the English Admiral with the fatal termination of the enterprise, and the causes which led to it. His whole thoughts seemed occupied by the dread of having the blame of this terrible event attributed to him; and this apprehension had more terrors for him than death.

The King of Prussia endeavoured to save Sombreuil; and Admiral Warren left no means untried to induce the heroic young man to permit himself to be saved. A well-concerted plan for his escape only waited for his consent to be put into execution; but he resisted every entreaty, and met death in his twenty-sixth year, beloved by all who knew him personally, and respected by all who were acquainted with his noble self-devotion.

Such was the brother of Madame de Villume—worthy to be the brother of such a sister!! And such were many of the families doomed to stain with their blood, the land to which they were an honour!!

13th.—Four days without adding a line to my journal! They have been very agreeably passed, making long excursions on horseback in the mornings, and sitting round a cheerful fire at night, with some of the pleasantest people of Avignon. An English lady is one of the most distinguished of the female inhabitants of this place—la Baronne de M——, who offers an admirable specimen of a high bred and gifted woman. She has married one of the richest proprietors in this neighbourhood, and one of the most agreeable men: well educated, and an accomplished musician, he and his amiable wife have rendered their home the rendezvous of all the *élite* of Avignon, and dispense their elegant hospitality to those who are presented to them. The greater part of the last four days has been passed in their society.

15th.—M. de L. would insist on taking us to view the foundry to-day. I confess I had little inclination for the undertaking; for having seen all that can be seen at Birmingham, and witnessed the forging of anchors at Portsmouth, my curiosity with regard to such matters was fully satisfied. This establishment, which is very extensive, embraces various branches of manufacture in iron, lead, and copper. During the war, innumerable pieces of cannon were cast here, as well as balls, shells, and all the other implements of destruction with which civilization has enriched us. At present, the articles manufactured here are intended for pacific uses, and give employment to a vast number of persons. The place chosen for this foundry is the church of St. Dominic, formerly that of the Inquisition. The residence of the grand inquisitor joins the church; and its stair-case still bears the vestiges of its former state. The church, though much dilapidated, retains many fragments of its original beauty. It is in the florid-gothic style, richly ornamented; with the exception of one chapel, which is in the Corinthian order, and admirable in its proportions and the high finish of its capitals. Many of the windows of stained glass, in their pristine richness, attest the wealth lavished on this church; and some of the monuments still remain unbroken, adding to the sombre effect produced by the ruin around. To gaze on this fine building, with its pointed arches, groined and fretted roofs, its gorgeously-tinted windows, and grotesque figures, with hundreds of black satanic beings moving rapidly around vast furnaces glowing with lurid flames, and casting broad red shadows on the marble monuments where sleep the dead—one could fancy oneself in some unholy place, where men were condemned to torture. But while

the ears were assailed by the deafening sounds of their anvils, and the eyes struck by the unearthly aspect of those who plied them, the flames of the furnace throwing its red hues on their dingy brows, and muscular arms, the light of day streamed brightly through the painted windows, casting prismatic hues amid the lurid ones of the furnaces, like a rainbow sun in a storm. The whole presented a scene worthy of being depicted by Michael Angelo, and would have furnished his mighty pencil with no bad subject for an *Inferno*. Here, where the pealing organ sent forth its hymns of praise to the Almighty, and the stoled priest offered up the sacrifice of the mass while kneeling hundreds prayed, the loud thunder of the resounding anvil was now heard, mingled with the discordant voices of the dusky cyclops who plied them. The change was revolting to my feelings; and the impiety that permitted such a desecration shocked us! In England, this could not have occurred! Dear happy England!—how frequently do I find myself instituting comparisons between your favoured land and this; each and all proving you, to my partial eyes, at least—Oh, how infinitely superior!

18th.—Went over the Mont de Piété to-day. This institution, of which each provincial town of any importance possesses one, is, I believe, peculiar to France. Here, all who are suffering under the pressure of distress, and who have property of any portable description, may pawn it for a third part of its intrinsic value; paying for the use of the money they obtained at the rate of three per cent. per annum, with the power of redeeming the property within the limit of three years, the longest period allowed; a public sale always taking place at the expiration of that time. The funds for this institution have been furnished by legacies and charitable donations. The duties of the establishment are gratuitously discharged by respectable individuals, who bestow unremitting attention to their task. The building is of considerable extent; it is constructed of cut stone, is fire-proof, with the doors of wrought iron. The rooms are of various dimensions; and are appropriated to contain the different articles pledged. Some have large presses ranged round, formed of strong lattice-work, to admit a thorough circulation of air: these are used for holding silk, cotton, and woollen goods. Other rooms have substantial wardrobes, with labelled drawers for jewels and plate. Apartments of larger dimensions are allotted to furniture of every description, which is so well arranged, that no confusion or mistake of property can arise. Each article is covered by a wrapper, labelled with a number in a particular colour, and marked with the name of the person who pledged it, and with the date, and the sum for which it was pawned. Those labels correspond with the entries in the ledger, and the

receipts given to the individuals who pledge. A separate book is kept for each colour, to preclude mistakes arising from similarity of numbers; and by this precaution, the property of every person may be quickly discovered. The most careful owner cannot be more attentive in preserving the articles from injury, than are the persons who have charge of them here. The rooms are so well ventilated, and such space is allowed, that the most valuable article cannot suffer deterioration: hence many families, previously to going into the country for the season, place their plate, jewels, furs, and other valuable property here, paying a small remuneration for the space occupied. It was impossible to behold the various articles deposited in this place without serious and melancholy reflections, on the feelings of those whom the hard grasp of poverty had compelled to resign them. Whether my eyes turned to the positive necessities of life ranged around me—the bed, with its coverings, and the clothes, the want of which at this moment may be felt as a heavy privation; or to the articles of luxury and ornament, rendered almost necessities by long habitude, or as being the gifts of love or friendship; imagination painted painful pictures of the situation and feelings of those to whom they belonged. The watch labelled, “*veuve Martan*” was, perhaps, the last legacy of a dear and lamented husband; its hands had traced many of her happiest hours; and had, alas! marked her heaviest hour of trial; its small but distinct tick had sounded pleasantly in her ear, when, by her cheerful hearth, she was enjoying a loved companion’s society; and she had gazed on its dial to count the watchful hours of anxiety passed by the bed of sickness, doomed to become the bed of death. But, above all, it was endeared to her because it had been *his*. For years and years, *his* hand had wound it, had placed it by the nuptial couch; and she had hoped—vainly hoped, that while she lived, it should never have passed into other hands! Those only who have treasured some memorial of a beloved object, snatched from them by death, can sympathise with the poor widow’s feelings, when compelled by the gaunt fiend Poverty, to consign this watch to its present place. The large gold locket, with the name of “*Léontine*” engraved on it, was surely the gift of love; and once held a ringlet more precious to its possessor than the most costly diamond. He had worn it for years concealed from every eye, it was associated with all the dreams and hopes of his youth, and the sight of it recalled visions of brightness long, long passed away. The blue skies and green fields that she, who bestowed it on him, loved to call his admiration to, were remembered when he looked at it; the trysting-tree, where they had so often interchanged their vows, seemed again to cast its umbrageous shadow over him, her sweet voice and love-

beaming glances were once more present, though the beautiful head whence the ringlet of soft silken hair which filled that locket had been severed, had long been laid in the dust. This had been the last memorial of her that was left to him; and dearly, fondly, had it been cherished! How strong was the pressure of that poverty which compelled him to part from this memento, not resigned until every other resource had been exhausted! His hand trembled while taking the silken tress from the case that it had so long filled, that case which had lain next his heart through many a sorrowful day and sleepless night; and the stain that has tarnished the gold, bears evidence to the tears wrung from him when he pressed it to his lips for the last time. I see him approach with hurried, but unsteady steps, casting a timid glance around, and shrinking with the sensitive delicacy peculiar to those of gentle blood, fallen on evil days, from the gaze of the cold and careless eyes around him. He strains the locket with a convulsive grasp as he draws nearer to the spot where he is to resign it, and —— But no—I will not finish the painful sketch my imagination has portrayed. Enough, Heaven knows, enough, of the painful realities of life surround one at the Mont-de-Piété, without conjuring up ideal scenes of misery. Misfortunes viewed in the mass, however great they may be, fail to excite that interest which individual cases awaken, when presented to us. Humanity would lead me to sigh on beholding the accumulated heaps of articles offered up by the unfortunate at this shrine of adversity, this last resource of poverty; but where fancy draws portraits, a stronger sympathy is raised, and the sufferings of the distressed seem brought more forcibly before me.

I was roused from my reverie by the Baron de M——, who asked me whether we possessed not similar institutions in England? The question made me reflect on the advantages to be derived from such an establishment; and excited in my mind an anxious desire that such might be formed to supersede the pawnbrokers' shops, at present the sole resource of the unfortunate; the owners of which fatten on the miseries of their fellow creatures. I have frequently read accounts of the extortion practised in those receptacles of avarice, where private gain is the sole motive that actuates them; and while public and private charity flows in so many streams of beneficence, succouring hundreds and hundreds, it is to be regretted that no plan has been adopted, of affording a relief like that offered at the Mont de Piété, to those who are too poor not to feel its want, and too proud to beg. One of the rich streams of benevolence with which England abounds, directed to this channel, would, I am persuaded, yield a salutary assistance to thousands.

One of the superintendents of the Mont de Piété told me that the ensuing week, being the one previous to Christmas, was their most busy period. I naturally concluded, that this arose from Christmas being with the people of Avignon, as with us, the epoch of their yearly payments, which being unprepared to meet, they had recourse to the Mont de Piété. He smiled at my simplicity when I expressed this conjecture, and replied, "No, Madam, they bring their household goods here, that they may, with the money they receive for them, be enabled to purchase a turkey for their Christmas dinner; it being a general custom through this part of France to have that bird on the dinner table. Those who are not rich enough to buy one, and alas! they are many, flock here to procure the means!" There was something approaching the ludicrous in this statement; and I smiled at the recollection of the sentimental pictures my imagination had painted, but a few minutes before, of the persons, circumstances, and feelings of those who came here to barter their possessions. Instead of a desolate and heart-stricken widow coming to pawn the watch of her lamented husband, or a pale and disconsolate lover bowed down by grief, and driven by poverty to part with the last memorial of affection, imagination now pictured a fat and buxom widow hastening to deposit her poor dear husband's watch, in order to purchase for a Christmas dinner, a plump turkey: or a red-faced gourmand, anticipating the savory delights of this too fascinating bird, enhanced by roasted chestnuts, bringing hither a locket given him when the gratification of the *heart* was more thought of than that of the *stomach*, and all his affections were not transferred to the unpoetical charms of a good dinner. I almost smiled as these images passed before my mind's eye, for my sympathy with those who had pledged their properties was destroyed, when I discovered such sacrifices were actually made to satisfy the cravings, not of hunger, but of epicurism. The superintendent informed me that it is a common custom for persons, on the approach of summer, to bring here their winter garments, which they pawn, and at the return of winter, they exchange them for the more substantial clothing. It is vanity, and not poverty, which in most cases induces this measure, though expediency also not unfrequently dictates it; the airy wardrobes of the Mont de Piété being considered a safer place for spare clothes than a confined lodging.


19th.—Saw in the Salle de la Commune to-day two good portraits; one of the brave Crillon, and the other of his son, the Duc de Mahon-Crillon. The countenance of the first answered the *idéal* I had formed, for it is frank, open, and manly. The eye indicates that the original never quailed before man, and the ex-

pression of goodness about the mouth relieves the face from all approach to sternness. Does the admiration invariably excited in the breast of woman, by bravery in man, proceed from the consciousness of her own physical weakness, and the confidence of protection which his strength affords her? is a question I have often asked myself. And after serious consideration, and mature deliberation, I am inclined to think that a less selfish sentiment gives birth to it. Yes, it arises from a pure admiration of what is noble and good, a quality which is inherent in woman's breast. But to resume the subject of the Salle de la Commune; I saw there the portraits of Louis XVIII. and Madame la Dauphine. Never was a greater contrast than they present. Louis' countenance is singular; and the artist has caught its peculiar expression. The generality of persons with such an enormous *embonpoint*, look stupid and heavy; but there is a lurking devil in his eyes, that bids defiance to the lethargic effect of obesity, and indicates no common vivacity of spirit. He is the very personification of a *spirituel bon-vivant*, who, while inordinately indulging his own weaknesses, would be a quick observer of, and pitiless railer at, those of others. The Duchesse d'Angoulême's countenance cannot be examined without painful sensations. Sorrow has left indelible marks on it; and were the terrible trials of her infancy and youth unknown, one could not see her without being struck with the conviction that her life had been steeped in sadness. When I first beheld her in 1820, her smile seemed a forced effort over habitual grief, more expressive of cureless, hapless despair, than any symptom of woe I had ever noticed in others. There was resignation and not hope in that smile—it was that of a martyred saint, and not a future queen.

20th.—Spent last evening at Madame de L.'s, met there the Duc and Duchesse de G—G—. Madame was *dame d'honneur* to Marie-Louise; and has all the air and manner of one accustomed to find herself *at home* in a court. She dresses *à ravir*, enters a room *comme un ange*, and talks *à merveille*, as a lady who sat next me assured me. Of the truth of the first and last I can bear witness, for she dresses with perfect taste, and in that ordeal of feminine skill, only perfect in France, a *demi-toilette*, shines with true Parisian elegance. Her conversation is brilliant, but its tone so subdued that it impresses one with the idea of how very animated and amusing she could be among her own peculiar circle, with whom she was under no restraint. Her conversation resembled a veiled beauty, that only allowed sufficient of her face to be seen to make one long to behold the rest. This Duchesse was selected by Napoleon to fill the distinguished place she held near the person of his empress, and discharged its duties with great credit to herself.

The Duc seems to be the quintessence of good nature, and both he and his Duchesse are very popular at Avignon, near to which they have a large château and give frequent entertainments.

French women appear to be born with an inherent desire to please. Some people are so ill-natured as to call this ambition coquetry, but it arises from a more amiable feeling. The Duchesse de C—G—, after having enjoyed all the gaiety and splendour of a brilliant court, where she doubtless was much admired, is now apparently as contented with her provincial *soirées*, and as *aimable* and as *empressée* to please those she encounters, as if they were the *élite* of the Faubourg St. Germain.



Nothing can exceed the polite attention that strangers, if well recommended, receive at Avignon. To the English, the inhabitants display great civility, which I attribute to the good impression the Baronne de M. has made in favour of her compatriots. She is so beloved and respected in the town, that its inhabitants are disposed to think well of all who come from her native land, and to evince this opinion by their friendly reception. Nowhere can society be conducted on a more easy and agreeable footing than it is here. There are a few families possessed of large fortunes; and several are of ancient lineage, but with very contracted incomes. This disparity of wealth would in other countries preclude association; or at least render it an expensive indulgence to those with limited means. But here, the rich give luxurious dinners and *soirées*, of which those of narrow fortunes partake; and in return entertain their opulent hosts at the expense of a little extra tea, a lamp or two more than usual, and a few glasses of *eau sucrée*. The idea of the poor emulating the affluent in their banquets, is unknown here; and, to their credit be it recorded, those accustomed in their homes to fine suites of rooms richly furnished, seem perfectly satisfied in the *petits salons*, poorly *meublés*, of their less fortunate neighbours. A round of *soirées*, in which each family receives their acquaintances, takes place during the winter season; but it is during the carnival that the greatest gaiety prevails. How rational is this system of not exceeding the fortune, by a profuse or unsuitable expenditure, and yet enjoying the pleasure of society. With us, the poor gentleman and his family would either decline accepting engagements which his means denied him the power of adequately returning, or he would disburse a sum in returning such hospitalities, as would seriously encroach on his income; for in England, people think it absolutely necessary to provide fare more suitable to the habits of their guests, than to their own resources. Nay, I am afraid, that few guests would be found with us, who would relish repasts wanting the luxuries which habit has rendered necessary to their comfort. Our ostentatious dinners

and *soirées* are well calculated to injure society, and, assuredly, have had that effect. The house, plate, and dinner of Mr. Thompson, with two thousand a-year, must vie with that of Mr. Seymour with eight, and Mr. Seymour must emulate those of Lord A., B., or C., who possesses twenty. This erroneous system induces people to give one expensive dull dinner of pretension, instead of a dozen, that would not cost the sum expended on the one; hence ceremony is substituted for ease, begetting coldness and indifference.

21st.—I am as "*triste as a bonnet de nuit*," to use a French phrase I often have heard employed, though why a night-cap should be *triste*, does not seem evident. It is one of those phrases received into use without a due examination of its aptitude; for the *tristesse* of a *bonnet de nuit* must depend wholly on the head that wears it. We have no phrase that conveys the same signification: we do not consider the hours allotted to repose as being dull; but then, we are a reflecting race, and are not disposed to find fault with aught that tends to make us think, even though it should not make us sleep. The French, *au contraire*, being constitutionally gay, are prone to regard the hours given to rest as stolen from amusement. Thence the night-cap is viewed as a symbol of dullness, and has given rise to the phrase "*triste comme un bonnet de nuit*." I have explained this momentous affair according to national prejudice, which invariably operates more or less in all our views and deductions. It is this national prejudice, which we designate with the high-sounding title of patriotism, that makes me view the gayer and happier temperament of our mercurial neighbours the French, with a sentiment bordering on pity, as I complacently compared it with our more dignified, but less enviable gravity. Nay, I more than once detected myself defending our climate, on the plea that its variability had something very *piquant* in it; and, for our dense fogs, I urged the palliation of their mysterious sublimity, which left so much to the imagination. A fog arising from the Seine, I admitted to some Parisians might be, and was a detestable thing—a mere Scotch mist, through which objects might be discerned—no mystery—no sublimity! But a London fog! with its mixture of grey, green, and yellow opaque, shutting out every thing, and bidding defiance to gas-lamps, was quite *autre chose*. "*Mon Dieu!*" replied the French lady, "what droll people you English must be, when you can be proud even of your fogs!"

22nd.—I could not yesterday note down "the secrets of the prison-house" I had seen. My spirits were depressed, and I endeavoured to recruit them by trifling, as children do by playing, when sent to learn a task, leaving the punishment for their idleness to another day. "*L'Hospice des Insensés*," which I went over, was

the cause of this depression. Yet the cleanliness and good order that prevailed throughout was consolatory. After passing through a large court, we entered the kitchen, where the repast for the female maniacs was preparing, under the superintendence of four nuns, *Sœurs de la Charité*, of most prepossessing appearance. The eatables consisted of dressed vegetables and bread: both looked excellent, and the most fastidious person could detect no symptom of want of attention in their preparation. It was edifying, as well as interesting, to observe the cheerfulness and activity of these pious women, wholly engrossed in administering to the wants of the unfortunate patients. The scrupulous cleanliness of their persons, and the mild serenity of their countenances, as their black veils floated gracefully from their heads, lent an air of dignity even to the menial offices they were performing, that took from them every vestige of the vulgarity generally attending culinary details. We were conducted by the good father who acted as our cicerone, to the *salle à manger*, where the male lunatics were partaking their dinner. Here I beheld, for the first time in my life, a vast number of my fellow-creatures, suffering under that most dreadful of all maladies, the privation of reason! Here the old, the young, the wild maniac, and the calm idiot, were mingled together in close contact, in soulless companionship. Countenances, animated by undue excitement, with eyes glaring with a frenzied light, were contrasted by faces on which the seal of confirmed imbecility was indelibly marked. Some wore the expression of careless, hopeless despair; and others were distinguished by a coarse and boisterous jocularly, excited by the follies of their companions, as if *they* were exempt from the fearful malady, the effects of which furnished their mirth. One fine looking young man, with a fearful brilliancy of eyes, approached and paid his compliments to us with a grace and good breeding that would not have disgraced the Tuileries. He entreated our assistance to free him from his hateful captivity; declaring, with a vehemence of manner which too well proved the disordered state of his mind, its perfect sanity, and the cruelty and injustice of detaining him in a lunatic asylum. While he was addressing us, one of his companions stole gently behind him, listened to what he said, burst into a loud laugh, and assured us that there was not in the hospital so mad a man; and that *he* was the only person in the house who was not a lunatic. The first speaker cast a look of inexpressible rage on the second, then implored us not to attend to the ravings of a maniac, who wished to prove every one mad but himself, and withdrew to the other side of the hall.

One man, with a grave countenance, approached and asked us whether we could not find madmen enough in the world without

coming there. "The world is only a madhouse on a larger scale," continued he, "where the lunatics follow their own caprices; instead of, as in asylums like this, being compelled to follow those of others." Having uttered this opinion, from the truth of which I, at least, was not inclined to dissent, he walked away with an air of great self-complacency. The women are kept in a different quarter of the building. They exhibited all the different degrees of insanity, from raving madness down to moping melancholy. Some were young, and possessed good features; but wanting the heavenly ray of mind, the lamp that illumines the countenance, the mere physical regularity only served to make the absence of intellectual beauty more visible. Many were so wholly absorbed by melancholy, as to be unconscious of our presence; while others eagerly addressed us with entreaties for freedom, for money, or for coffee. What an appalling lesson on the infirmity of our natures, and the instability of our most boasted and glorious attribute—reason, did this scene convey. Yes, that divine gift which elevates us above the brute, which enables us to beautify the earth, and to read the heavens, that places science within our reach, and knowledge at our call, may in a moment be forfeited, and man, proud lordly man, with all his boasted powers, be reduced to the level of the beast of the field! How humiliating are such scenes, yet how salutary are the reflections to which they give birth! The sense of our weakness seems more deeply impressed on our minds; and, bowed down in spirit by this consciousness, we turn to Him who holds life and reason in his hands, and who can at a moment deprive us of both. How fervent is the appeal which the soul lifts to its Creator, when surrounded by hundreds labouring under this fearful affliction; and we almost shudder while asking, what are we, O Lord, that we should be exempt?

The chapel of the hospital contains some good pictures, among which, two from the pencil of Guido, are the most esteemed; and two by that most effeminate of all painters, Carlo Dolci, whose warmest admirers are ever to be found among the young and the fair. An ivory crucifix, the work of Guillermin, ornaments this chapel; and is one of the most exquisite specimens of carving that ever was executed. Nothing can be more perfect than the anatomy of the figure, and the expression of the countenance. Canova pronounced this crucifix to be a *chef-d'œuvre*. There is a little history attached to the manner in which the hospital became possessed of this master-piece, that increases the interest with which it is beheld.

The committee of the hospital have the privilege of once in five years demanding the pardon of a condemned criminal, whose life is granted to their intercession. The nephew of Guillermin was

among those sentenced to death, and the uncle applied to the committee, stating that if they would obtain the pardon of his nephew, he would present this crucifix to the hospital. His request was acceded to, the nephew's life was saved; and the graven image redeemed *one* of that mass for whose redemption the Saviour offered up life.

23d.—The more I see of French society, the more do I like its ease and agreeability. We yesterday had a party of our new acquaintances, *friends* they would style themselves, to dine at our inn; and good Madame Pieron, animated by that *amour-propre* peculiar to her compatriots, exerted her and her *chef de cuisine's* skill, to furnish a good dinner. Nothing could go off better: simply, I believe, because each individual of the party was disposed to please, and be pleased; a determination that offers a wonderful specific for making every social meeting a pleasant one. What a pity it should not be more generally known! for then, dull *soirées*, long faces, and yawning mouths, would become more rare; and we should seldom see the looks which seem to say, "Amuse me if you can, I defy your most potent efforts." Ennui appears to be banished from French society; or, at least, I have never yet detected a single symptom of it. The weather, that inexhaustible subject of conversation with us, is seldom referred to; and ill health is not made the excuse of a piteous monologue, more interesting to the speaker than to the listeners.● A facility to be amused, is among the peculiarities of the French, and a very enviable peculiarity it is, notwithstanding that we in our superior wisdom are prone to consider it as an indication of their frivolity; and pique ourselves that we are not formed of such facile materials. No, forsooth, we must expend large sums, and time, and trouble too, before we can condescend to be amused; nor do we often succeed even *then*. But we console ourselves by the reflection, that we have minds above such empty pleasures; and this sophistry soothes our pride.—Christmas seems a season of general festivity here. The note of preparation is sounding all around, and one cannot walk a step without seeing turkeys borne triumphantly from house to house. Great has been the slaughter of these birds, and many a gourmand in humble life smacks his lips in anticipation of feasting on one on Christmas day. Happy faces are to be met at each turning, congratulations are exchanged, and an extraordinary hilarity prevails. Every street boasts a vender of roasted chestnuts, which send forth their aromatic fumes from an iron pot placed on a rude brazier filled with burning charcoal; and lively groups are clustering round the old women who sell this favourite fruit, to indulge their appetites at the expense of a sou.

24th.—Christmas eve is solemnized with great pomp and cere-

mony in all the Catholic chapels in France. I went to see the midnight mass celebrated at the fine church of St. Peter's, which was well lighted, and has a fine organ. The mass was chanted, and the organ pealing forth its mighty voice, had a fine and imposing effect. The women all wore black veils; which, as the majority of them were without bonnets, floating like scarfs from their heads, and leaving the faces, on which the light fell, exposed, added much to the picturesque appearance of the whole *coup-d'œil*. The effect of sacred music at night, and in a church, is solemn and beautiful. It excites a gentle melancholy, that disposes the soul to religious musings; and sends it on the wings of hope to those regions, where the dear and departed have only preceded us. I never could hear sacred music in my life without thinking of the friends I have lost, as if the sounds were a mysterious medium of communion between our souls: and, at night, it creates in me still more powerfully this sweet, but sad illusion.

Christmas Day.—All Avignon seemed to-day on good cheer intent, and its results may now be distinctly traced in the snatches of song, peals of laughter, and joyous greetings, that are borne to us on the wings of the wind from the adjoining streets. No symptom of ebriety is visible in all this gaiety, which is the work of natural spirits, excited into more than usual exuberance by a good dinner. The French are not addicted to copious libations, and I have not seen an intoxicated man since I left Paris. Madame Pieron, to do honour to our national customs, had concocted a plum pudding, not (*grace à Dieu*) à l'anglaise, but as good a specimen of one, à la française, as could be tasted. Commend me to a French plum pudding! at once rich and light; how far preferable is it to the palate, and how much less pernicious to the stomach, than the impenetrable lump of condensed and opaque fruit and fat served up on English tables. She, good soul, apologized for its not being *tout-à-fait à l'anglaise*; but we did such ample justice to it, that she must have been satisfied we liked it. The large logs of wood piled on the ancient gilded dogues on our ample hearth, make one fancy oneself in some old fashioned country house; and the rich silk hangings, and roomy cabriole chairs, and *canapés*, which originally graced some lofty residence, support the impression. Mad. Pieron is very proud of this rich and tasteful furniture, which would really do honour to one of the last strongholds of l'ancienne noblesse, in the Faubourg St. Germain.

26th.—Went over the Hospital for Invalid Soldiers, to-day; and was highly gratified with the perfect good order, cleanliness, and comfort, that reigned in it throughout. Twelve hundred men are accommodated in this hospital; which is under the command of General de Villume. The married men are permitted to have

their wives and children with them. Each soldier has a small garden which he cultivates, the produce of which assists in the maintenance of his family: and though no allowance for the women and children is given by the government, they seem in no want of the necessaries, nor, indeed, of the comforts of life. It is said that there are at present not less than twelve hundred children in the hospital; all of whom are well clothed, and healthy in appearance. *Les Sœurs de la Charité*, those ministering angels, who are only seen when in the performance of their self-imposed duties, instruct the female children of the invalids in reading, writing, arithmetic, and needle-work; and the boys have a school in the hospital. Such of the invalids as are capable of working, find constant employment in public offices and from private individuals; and as the invalids are lodged, clothed, and fed in the hospital, the money they earn goes to the support of their families. The apartments of the building are spacious and airy; two large gardens, into which they open, give exercise to the inhabitants. The married men are allowed to dine and sup in their rooms, and to share their repasts with their families, which, as their supplies are very liberal, they can well do. Their dinners and suppers are sent to them from the hospital kitchen in large wooden boxes, well-closed, laid on hand-barrows, and carried by two men. The unmarried invalids dine in a large mess-room, containing two rows of circular tables, each sufficiently spacious to accommodate twelve men. In the centre of each is an enormous round pewter tureen, as bright as silver, filled with soup and bouilli, the savoury odour of which is well calculated to give an appetite. Each man has a large loaf of bread, and half a bottle of wine, furnished to him. Dinner is served at twelve o'clock, and at four their suppers are sent to them. We were in the kitchen when this last meal was dishing, and a more perfect picture of cleanliness and good order could not be presented. One side of this vast *cuisine* was appropriated to the use of the invalid officers; and two white-capped and aproned cooks, with their *aides de cuisine*, were plying their professional skill on cutlets, *poulets*, *entrées*, and *entremets*, with vegetables and sweet things in abundance. The cleanliness of the men, and the culinary utensils they employed, and the excellence of the *comestibles* they were arranging, left nothing to be desired by the most fastidious taste. Two officers superintend the quality and distribution of the dinners and suppers of the invalids; and nothing could exceed the precision with which every part of the business of cooking, dishing, and despatching the viands to their different destinations, was performed. It was a pleasant sight to behold the large *salle à manger* filled with cheerful countenances. A grey-headed veteran, wanting an arm, was placed next a young

soldier who had lost a leg ; and the latter evinced an attention to the wants of the former which it was most agreeable to contemplate, cutting his bread and meat with a good-natured readiness that seemed habitual. At every side, old and young, alike maimed and disabled, met our glances ; yet never did I witness an assemblage of more cheerful and contented beings. We saw one invalid who had lost both arms and legs from their sockets, presenting literally a torso with a head. His countenance is remarkably fine ; and he is said to possess a constant cheerfulness of spirits and good temper. A fellow soldier is paid for attending him, and performs the functions of a nurse with gentleness and kindness ; his helpless charge singing, whistling, and chatting with all his companions, with whom he appears to be a general favourite. We also saw a very interesting and venerable veteran, who has completed the remarkable age of one hundred and ten years. He fought in the battles of Fontenoy and Jemmapes, two epochs very distant from each other. Notwithstanding that he has received no less than five balls, and innumerable sabre wounds, he still retains such an extraordinary degree of vigour and animation, that he might well pass for being only seventy years of age. He speaks six languages, and his memory is so good that he recounts many of the scenes of his early life, and the campaigns in which he has served, with vivacity and perfect coherence. He has been twice married, and was the father of twenty-seven children. He told me, that for many years he has rarely slept for more than an hour at a time ; which he accounted for by his always dreaming of battles, in which he imagines that he takes so active a part that his slumbers are broken, and he awakes in a state of agitation. He is often heard in his sleep uttering exclamations and menaces, to supposed enemies ; and is seen to brandish his arms, as if firing, or cutting with a sword. I never beheld any man, however young, who possessed the same degree of exuberant animation as this old soldier displays when talking of the past. It is really like the neighing of the old war-horse at the sound of the trumpet.

I smile now, on reflecting on the prejudices I formerly entertained against the soldiers of our Gallic neighbours. I believed them unprincipled, uneducated, and dissipated ; and very religiously nursed the conviction, that one English soldier was a match for at least three French. I am now willing to accord to them, and it is surely no mean praise, an equal physical and moral force with our own troops ; and this is the fruit of much observation, with opportunities of making it such as are rarely allowed to travellers. An acquaintance with the commanding officers of many of the regiments in garrison towns through which we have passed, afforded

us facilities of judging the conduct and habits of the French soldiers; and the impressions received have been very favourable. A good understanding, approaching to friendship, subsists between the officers and soldiers; and it is difficult, with our notions of the distance and *hauteur* which a strict attention to discipline requires, to believe that a perfect subordination can exist where so much good will is visible. Yet such is the case. A frank, manly confidence is evident in the manners of the soldier towards his officer; but this demeanour is however entirely free from a disrespectful familiarity. It resembles the conduct I have remarked in dear England, from a very young officer to an old and brave colonel, a respect towards *him*, that did not interfere with *self-respect*. The soldiers, for the most part, can read, and write tolerably; are fond of reading, selecting generally campaigns, and memoirs of celebrated commanders, for their favourite studies. They are most powerfully actuated by an inordinate *amour-propre*; which, though it leads them to dare danger, even unto death, renders them impatient under control, unless the controller wields his power without any exhibition of arrogance. It also renders them violent and ungovernable under even slight personal insults, which almost invariably are followed by duels; the prevention of which is often found to be difficult, if not impossible. I have observed, with great satisfaction, the high estimation in which the military character of our nation is held by the French; for notwithstanding their extreme vanity, which might tempt them to deteriorate the reputation of other soldiers, they are always ready to render justice to the bravery and high discipline of ours, as well as to their probity and humanity.

27th.—Performed a feat to-day, which, now that I reflect on it, makes me wonder at my own courage. I rode up to Villeneuve, an enterprise that has excited great astonishment among the dowagers and ancient spinsters of Avignon. Villeneuve was a fortress situated on a steep hill at the side of the river opposite to Avignon; and though greatly dilapidated, is still a great ornament to the place, particularly when seen at a distance. Its battlements command an extensive view, the beauty of which repays one for the trouble of ascending them. The approach to it is curious, being a narrow road cut through a bed of solid rock, with railroads formed for the wheels of vehicles to reach the fortress. The road is exceedingly steep, and extremely slippery; yet my good steed, Mameluke, carried me up and down without making a false step, to the wonder of many spectators, who seemed embarrassed which most to admire, his steadiness and sure feet, or the courage of his mistress. The French ladies are not bold riders, which is strange; for nearly all the fine points of view,

and picturesque sites in France, can only be reached on horse-back; the roads being impracticable in a carriage. I confess I was not sorry, when I found myself safely returned from my dangerous ride; and the fame my horsemanship has acquired, will long be remembered among people who have not often a subject of wonder to talk about.

28th.—Went over the public library. It is of considerable extent, and contains a large and valuable collection of books, as well as some rare and curious manuscripts. This library has been united to that of the Calvet; so named, from having been bequeathed to Avignon by the late Monsieur Calvet, who also enriched it by the bequest of his cabinet of natural history, medals and antiquities of Egypt, Greece and Rome. A MS. bible of the twelfth century, in fine preservation, a large and splendid bible, the date unknown, and said to have cost one thousand *louis d'or*, with some rare missals, are shown as among the most valuable part of the collection. Monsieur Calvet inserted a clause in the bequest, that his library, etc. should never be merged in any other: a little piece of vanity very excusable in a man who had devoted a long life, and a very large fortune, to the formation of this collection. To avoid infringing on this prohibition, the public library has been added to M. Calvet's, and the whole is called the Calvet Library. The medals are very fine, and well-classed; so are the coins.

29th.—Went over the cathedral of Notre Dame de Don, a very ancient building, and a perfect *pot-pourri* of architecture; uniting so many different orders, that they present an *ensemble* of most "admired disorder." It is supposed to have been a temple dedicated to Hercules, a statue of him having been found there, with an inscription on the base. The porch of the church, which was once a portico, as well as the interior entrance, is evidently of a much earlier date than the rest of the building, and bears evidence of Roman taste and workmanship. The columns of the peristyle are said to be Saracenic. One chapel is ornamented with an exquisitely executed frieze of large oak leaves intertwined with a band, on which is an inscription. This frieze is in *alto rilievo*, and is continued round the whole of the chapel. As many, and as various, specimens of architecture and sculpture may be viewed in this cathedral, as could be found in several countries; but the mixture has as inharmonious an effect as a medley has in music, when, though the component parts may be fine, the *ensemble* is not agreeable. The churches of St. Agricola, St. Pierre, St. Didier, and des Carmes, have little worthy of notice, except the doors of St. Pierre, which are of great beauty, being admirably sculptured with large figures. I love wandering through old churches. The reflections to which they give birth, transport us from the

busy scenes of everyday life, to which we are but too prone to confine our thoughts; and force upon us the conviction of the transitoriness of human existence, and of that dread future, which we banish from our minds in the routine of pleasures and occupations in which we suffer ourselves to be engrossed. The keeping churches open all day, and permitting those who are disposed to enter is, I think, a very salutary measure; it maintains the habit of prayer, and the reverence for religion, which must surely act as a check, if not as a preventive, to the indulgence of evil passions. I have seldom entered a church in France or Belgium without having observed a number of persons passing and repassing, all of whom devoted at least some minutes to prayer. The *modiste* with her *carton*, or the *cuisinière* returning with her basket of provisions from the market, would esteem it sinful to pass the ever-open doors of the church, without entering to beg a pardon or a blessing; nay, the *marmiton* with his apron on, and the artisan, who is taking to his employer the produce of his labour, will step in, and lowly bending, utter a few short, but fervent prayers.

31st.—I took such a long ride yesterday, and had so agreeable a party at home in the evening, that I played truant to my journal. The French women are very pleasant companions; so easily amused, and so naturally disposed to be amusing. They have more animal spirits than the English; but it never degenerates into aught approaching boisterousness. But this extreme facility of pleasing and being pleased, argues a want of that sensibility which renders English women so captivating. A French woman seems born to amuse, and to be admired; an English woman to interest, and to be loved. A man must have a more than common share of vanity, who could imagine that a French woman, however she might profess to like him, would break her heart at his loss. She is too *spirituelle*, too vivacious, and too prone to be diverted, to indulge a settled melancholy; but an English woman, with her naturally soft and reflective character, her power of concentration, and the gentle pensiveness which is a characteristic of her countrywomen, conveys an impression that her happiness would be for ever destroyed by the loss of the object of her affection; and this impression has a powerful influence over him who loves her. From what I have seen of French women, I can believe them capable of the most heroic sacrifices, the most generous and noble actions; but I think they would like an audience to applaud the performance of their parts. I cannot picture to myself a French woman passing months in a sick chamber, noiselessly gliding to perform those duties which are so admirably fulfilled by English women. No, she presents herself to my imagination, brilliant and elegant,

happy in the consciousness of being *mise dans la dernière mode*, content with her *modiste*, her *couturière*, and herself; and, *par conséquence*, with all the world. The English woman is by nature timid, and doubtful of the effect she produces. She thinks more of the object she wishes to please, than of the means used to accomplish this desideratum. She is afraid *la dernière mode* may not suit her as well as it does others; she has *not* an implicit confidence in her *modiste* and *couturière*, and still less in herself: hence, she wants that *air dégagé*, that sparkling animation, which appertains to the French woman; and which is founded on the unshakable basis of her vanity.

Jan. 1st, 1823.—A new year. There is something that excites grave and solemn reflections in this new page opened in the book of life. I never could understand how people can dance out the old year, and welcome in the new, with gaiety and rejoicings. If the departed year has brought us sorrow (and over how few does it revolve without bringing it!) we look on its departure with chastened feelings; and if its circle has been marked by some bright days, how can we see it die without indulging a tender melancholy? I felt all this last night, when the ghosts of departed joys stood before my mind's eye; and I breathed a heart-felt aspiration that the coming year may pass as free from heavy trials as the last. What a merciful arrangement of the Almighty is the impenetrable veil which covers our destinies! And yet there have been mortals who have desired to pierce it; and who have thirsted for that knowledge which, if obtained, might empoison the present. How worse than vain is this desire of prying into futurity! Do we not know that our lives, and those of all dear to us, hang on so frail a thread, that a moment may see it cut by inexorable Fate!—that it is the condition of our being to behold our friends (the links that bind us to existence) snapt rudely asunder! And yet we would wish to lift the dread veil that hides the yawning graves, to be filled, perhaps in a few hours, by some one whose death renders earth a desert. Far—far from me, be this unenviable prescience; and let me not tremble for the future, by foreseeing what it contains.

My sombre reflections this morning were interrupted by a visit from the domestics of our inn, dressed in their holiday finery, each bearing a bouquet of flowers, and the upper servant a silver salver; on which was a large cornucopia of white satin, richly embroidered with flowers, and filled with *bonbons*, which he prayed me to accept as a trifling mark of the respect and *dévouement* of himself and fellow servants. The presentation speech was neat and appropriate; the compliments well turned, and the bows and courtesies that marked its close, graceful. It is strange to observe

the superiority of manner which the lower classes in France possess over the same class with us. Every person in humble life with whom I have been brought in contact at this side of the water, has that conventional good breeding only found with us among the upper classes—and not always with them. Every French man and woman can bow and courtesy gracefully; enter and leave a room without embarrassment; and turn their conversation either in a deferential or complimentary manner, as occasion requires. Yet the servants are far inferior to ours in that calm and regular discharge of their duties, which marks the conduct of a well-ordered establishment. The politeness of a French servant is that of one member of society to a person more elevated than himself. If a question is asked of a French servant, instead of confining himself, as in England, to a laconic and respectful reply, he will enter into a diffuse explanation: civil, it is true; but too verbose to be tolerated by those accustomed to the concise answers and deferential demeanour, of the English domestic. The French servant intends no want of respect by his loquacity, and would be surprised and mortified if checked in it.

2nd.—Nearly the whole of yesterday was passed in receiving visits and *cadeaux, pour le jour de l'an*. Madame, Monsieur and Mademoiselle Pieron had each a bouquet to present, and, with it, a copy of verses. Our new friends at Avignon were not less generous; consequently our rooms are so filled with flowers, that it is difficult to believe we are in January, instead of June. It is the universal custom of the French, of all classes, to present to each other, on the first day of the year, gifts in token of good will and attachment; and though the evidences may be as fragile as the sentiment that prompts them, the usage is nevertheless a pleasant one, conveying reciprocal gratification at slight cost. The servants in the provinces subscribe to buy a rich bouquet, and a large cornucopia of *bonbons*, which they present with a letter, expressive of their attachment, signed by each individual of the establishment, to the mistress of the château, on *le jour de l'an*, and the anniversary of her birthday. There is something affectionate and touching in this custom, which is indicative of the good feeling existing between masters and servants.

Nowhere is servitude rendered so easy and agreeable as in France: the masters taking a lively interest in the welfare of their domestics, rebuke any symptom of extravagance which they may exhibit, and assist them with their advice in the management of their private affairs, or in the establishment of their children whenever they deem it necessary. The mistress of a house regulates the dress and expenditure of her female servants, is often requested by them to buy their habiliments, and will bargain, and abate the

price; stating that such or such a sum is too much to charge a servant. The servants repay this kindness by considering the house of their employers as a home, only to be forfeited by ill conduct; and not murmuring at, or attempting to infringe on, the system of economy established. In short, they look on the fortune of their employers as a fund in which they have a common interest; *they* do not calculate on the prospect of finding a richer or more extravagant master, nor do they dread being discharged, unless they behave ill. This mutual confidence begets a species of familiarity more like friendship than that distant behaviour which exists in England, between master and servant: but as the French understand each other, it is never meant nor mistaken for impertinence; although we are sometimes somewhat surprised, if not shocked, at witnessing it. A French lady of the highest rank will call her maid, *ma chère*; and a French nobleman will tell his valet, or laquais, that he is *un bon enfant*, or *un bon garçon*, without thinking it indecorous.

3rd.—If so objectionable a word as *talented* could ever be employed with propriety, the French seem to be precisely the persons to whom it is most applicable; they possess so many accomplishments, such a versatility of superficial acquirements, and such a good-humoured readiness in making them available. Every house among the upper class contains a tolerable versifier, ready to pen a sonnet, write an epithalamium, elegy, or monody, as the occasion may require; which, if not remarkable for poetic fire, are at least very readable, as *vers de société*. The men, as well as women, are nearly all musicians, draw with spirit and accuracy, can get up a concert on the shortest notice, and fill the albums of their friends, as well as their own, with clever sketches. But it is their acting that most surprises a stranger. French men and women seem really born to act. Each goes through his or her *rôle* with an ease and vivacity that I had hitherto thought was confined to professional performers, and only to the best of them. No awkwardness, no shyness, and yet none of that over-acting, which so often spoils a too confident actor. A *comédie larmoyante* they enact à *merveille*; but it is in pieces representing the manners of actual life, in which vivacity is tempered by quiet satire, that their chief excellence lies; for it is only in them that their perfect acquaintance with the *bon ton* of society is rendered completely available. In deep tragedy, where the passions and not the manners are the principal features, a want of knowledge of conventional refinement may be overlooked; and many actors and actresses, denied the opportunity of acquiring it, have yet arrived at a high degree of perfection in the serious department of histrionic art. But in genteel comedy this qualification is indispensable; and hence it is

that amateur actors in France are so good. English ladies, however high bred, always retain a certain timidity, (and it is one of their greatest charms,) which precludes that perfect ease so essentially necessary in dramatic exhibitions. And this national peculiarity is not confined to the upper classes. I have remarked it on our stage; where, in genteel comedy, I have been seldom permitted to indulge the illusion that the female representatives of the characters were *not* acting. In tragedy, the passions excite the performers into a temporary oblivion of their individuality; and, consequently, the majority of them excel in serious parts; as also in the broad comic line, in which we have had several remarkable actors. These reflections were excited by having last night been present at the Baronne de Montfaucon's at the performance of a *comédie*, followed by a comic opera. The Duchesse de Caderousse Grammont enacted the heroine, the Baron de Montfaucon the hero, and Madame de Leutre the *sui-vante*. The other parts were well filled; and the whole went off so admirably that I doubt if at the Théâtre Français at Paris it could have been better acted. The performance of the Duchesse de Caderousse Grammont reminded me very much of the manner of Mademoiselle Mars; in short, it was that of a perfectly high-bred fine lady, with all the airy elegance and sparkling vivacity of a beauty and a *bel esprit* conversing in her own circle. A peculiarity struck me, which the managers of amateur performances would be right glad, I am persuaded, to see carried into practice in England; namely, that there was no emulation among the actors or actresses, as to which should enact the principal parts. The distribution of the characters was left entirely to the manager; and all are, as I am told, invariably satisfied with his allotment. Hear this, ye amateur performers in England! where all would fain fill the principal *rôles*, to the no slight annoyance of the unhappy manager, who has so many vanities to conciliate that the pieces are seldom cast as they should be. The French are more partial to difficult than harmonious, and to loud than soft, music. Perhaps it may be deemed a criterion of their musical taste, that they do not particularly admire Mozart! Mozart, who finds an admirer in every English ear, whether in the palace or beneath no canopy but that of the dark and hazy atmosphere; from the refined auricular organ which conveys sound to a duchess, down to the lowest auditor of the street-roving musician, who gathers applause and halfpence every time he plays one of that inimitable composer's airs.

4th.—Dined yesterday at the Baron de Montfaucon's; a very agreeable party. The conversation brilliant and lively; forming a pleasant *mélange* of literature, *les beaux arts*, music, and antiquities. The French certainly shine in conversation. They

sustain it without effort, change it when no longer amusing, and never permit those dull pauses, so often observable in English society, and which produce an awkwardness, difficult to be conquered, but easy to be avoided. Apropos of antiquities, the Baron de Montfaucon this morning sent me a present of a cinerary vase of glass, finely formed, with two handles, and filled with dust—human dust—reduced by the process of fire to a fine powder. This vase was found on his estate, close to the spot traversed by Hannibal, and bears testimony of the perfection at which the ancients had arrived in their manufacture of glass. Various objects of rare antiquity have been found on the Baron de Montfaucon's property; but the vase presented to me is the largest piece of glass they have yet discovered. I wish it was safely lodged in London, for I am uneasy at the perils by sea and land which it will have to encounter ere it shall arrive.

Nothing can exceed the kindness and hospitality of our acquaintances at Avignon. Invitations come pouring in upon us every day; and the consequence of our acceptance of them would be a round of gaiety at the houses of all the people we know. The perfect harmony and good understanding that subsist between the persons here is truly marvellous. No political discussions disturb the social reunions; no defamation, the tranquillity of families. I have not heard a single scandalous anecdote repeated of any one member of the society, though they are all given to be communicative: hence, one must conclude, either that extraordinary virtue precludes a foundation for such comments, or that an extraordinary good-nature prevents them from revealing their neighbours' faults. Whichever may be the cause, the effect is certainly very agreeable.

It is strange how soon one becomes habituated to a place. I really feel as much at home at Avignon as if I had spent years here; and shall not leave it without regret. Among the most agreeable of the military here, is Comte T. Sebastiani, brother to the General of that name at Paris. He commands a Corsican regiment stationed here, and is an acquisition to society. Comte Buotafoco, grandson to the correspondent of Rousseau, belongs to the same regiment, and is a well-educated gentlemanly man.

6th.—The public theatre has opened here, and is, as the *Morning Post* would state, fully and fashionably attended. We visited it last night; and although the company are of a very inferior description, the performance was above mediocrity. Yes; the French are born actors, and fill the rôles assigned to them as naturally as if they were not acting. The habit of seeking amusement seems to be innate in this people. To find a domestic circle assembled round their fire-side would be here a difficult matter. They must

either give, or go to, a *soirée*, or the theatre; no one ever thinks of staying quietly at home, unless compelled by indisposition; and even then, unless his malady is deemed contagious, his chamber is nearly filled by his acquaintances. They appear to have an inherent dread of solitude, or the privacy of a mere family circle. The more I observe this peculiarity, the more I am convinced of the truth of the story related of a French nobleman *de l'ancien régime*; who had been long accustomed to pass his evenings at the house of a lady to whom he was supposed to be much attached, but whom he could not marry, on account of a slight obstacle in the shape of a husband. When, however, on the removal by death of this seeming impediment to his happiness, a friend congratulated him, and expressed his conviction that now *Monsieur le Duc* would marry *Madame la veuve*, he replied, "*Mais non, mon cher; car si j'épouse Madame, où passerai-je mes soirées?*" This perplexing question was considered by all to be an unanswerable objection to the connubial engagement.

I have nowhere observed a greater degree of harmony than seems to subsist here between families. A lady to whom I made the observation answered, "It is true, relations do agree perfectly well with us; but the fact is, we live so much in public, that we have not time to quarrel. We cannot *ennuyer* each other by long dull evenings; when, tired of others, and ourselves, we avenge our ill-humour on each other by saying a thousand spiteful things, or doing a thousand tormenting ones. Under the tedious influence of a domestic imprisonment, husbands, brothers, and brothers-in-law, forget the distinctions of sex in their female relatives; or, at least, are too apt to neglect the habitual politeness the recollection of it should excite. They make no ceremony in your country, I am told, of yawning, or slumbering in their presence; or of taking possession of the easiest chair, or most comfortable sofa, in which to pore over a newspaper, or to court the influence of sleep. We preclude the possibility of such irregularities by never being at home of an evening, except when we have company; and this habit, I assure you, is the secret of our good intelligence."

9th.—Took a long ride to-day. The olive-trees, which are abundant in the country around Avignon, prevent its bearing that desolate aspect which a landscape generally assumes in winter; and though their foliage is not of the most vivid green, still they have a good effect, now that all other trees are stripped of their leafy honours. The gardens, too, look verdant. The *arbutus*, laurel-rose, and *lauristinus*, flourish here, and nearly prevent our missing the plants and flowers they supersede. I have nowhere seen the laurel-rose grow so luxuriantly as in

this neighbourhood, and it is singularly beautiful. I mean to try if I cannot introduce it in Ireland, where the arbutus and myrtle flourish so well. Apropos of Ireland, the people here often remind me of the Irish. The same vivacity and gaiety of disposition, with the same tendency to excitement; a similar desire of enjoying the present, though its enjoyments may be purchased at the expense of the future; and a quickness of feeling, and a liability to angry emotions, with a facility to be appeased, mark the lower classes here. But they do not seem prone to that short-lived but deep melancholy to which the Irish are subject; and which urges them to seek in ebriety a relief from depression. They have more fancy and less imagination; and their spirits, arising from physical rather than mental sources, are more stable than are those of our more impressionable islanders. In judging of a nation, as well as of individuals, a sufficient allowance is seldom made for peculiar temperaments; and yet how greatly are both influenced by them! Half the crimes that sully Ireland, and which are attributed to political excitement, have little reference to this imagined fruitful source of quarrels, but spring from the natural proneness of the people to indulge irritable feelings. Theirs is indeed a poetical temperament; easily urged to anger, and as easily appeased by kindness. Would that the latter experiment was more frequently tried!

10th.—Our Corsican acquaintances related to us last evening several interesting details of the Buonaparte family. Even while yet a mere child, Napoleon was distinguished from his companions by a decision of character, and promptitude of action, as well as by a *fierté*, that led him to usurp a command over those with whom he was brought in contact, very remarkable in so young a boy, and strongly indicative of his future career. The mother of Napoleon, on returning from church, was suddenly seized with the pangs of labour, and gave birth to him in her *salon*, before she could be removed to her bedchamber, on a tapestry carpet, on which was represented the heroes of Homer. This circumstance was frequently referred to when Napoleon, in after days, became the hero of deeds equally worthy of being made the subject of an epic; and was, by the superstitious, considered to have been an omen of his destiny. The Corsicans—officers as well as the private soldiers here—are remarkable for their physiognomies, which partake of the French and Italian character of countenance, and yet are different from both. They are darker than the Italians, even more animated than the French, and more impetuous than both; they possess an uncommon degree of quickness of apprehension and comprehension; but are self-opinionated, and impatient of control. The regiment here, nevertheless, is extremely

well-conducted, and appears to be much liked by the inhabitants ; among whom Colonel Sebastiani, who commands them, is a general favourite.

12th.—It is difficult to convince the French that people *can* prefer staying at home to going out to *soirées* ; and although their politeness prevents their giving utterance to their opinions on this point, it is easy to perceive that they think the preference rather absurd. Now that the *season*—for even Avignon has its fashionable season—has commenced, gaieties, on a more extended scale, are going forward ; balls interrupt the more sedate *soirées* ; and it is evident that the younger part of the society rejoice in the change : nor do the more mature regret it ; for in France people do *not* consider their dancing days to be over as soon as with us ; and ladies and gentlemen trip it on the light fantastic toe at an age when the gout precludes the men, at least, in England, from such an amusement. *Apropos* of gout : it might lead to beneficial results, were it more generally known that this disease is of rare occurrence in France. Query, is it not because the use, or abuse, of stimulating wine is avoided ?

13th.—All that we hear in praise of French dancing is borne out by what I have seen even in this provincial town. Nothing can be more graceful, or unaffected ; no attempt at display is visible ; no *entre-chats*, that alarm people with tender feet for their safety ; and no exhibition of vigour likely to bring its practisers to the *melting mood* ; a mood never sufficiently to be reprobated in refined society. The waltz in France loses its objectionable familiarity, by the manner in which it is performed. The gentleman does not clasp his fair partner round the waist with a freedom repugnant to the modesty, and destructive to the *ceinture* of the lady ; but so arranges it, that he assists her movements, without incommoding her delicacy or her drapery. In short, they manage these matters better in France than with us ; and though no advocate for this exotic dance, I must admit that, executed as I have seen it, it could not offend the most fastidious eye.

The French toilette, too, even at this distance from the capital, is successfully attended to : an elegant simplicity distinguishes that of the young ladies, whose robes of organdi or tulle, of a snowy whiteness, well-buckled *ceinture*, bouquet of flowers, well-cut shoes, and delicately white gloves, defy criticism, and convey the impression of having been selected by the Graces, to be worn for that night only. No robe of materials too expensive to be quickly laid aside, or *chiffonnée* and *fanée* by use, here meets the sight ; no *ceinture* that betrays the pressure it inflicts ; and no gloves that indicate the warmth of the wearer's feelings, or those of her partner, are to be seen. The result is, that the young ladies are

simply and tastefully attired, with an extreme attention to the *freshness* of their toilette, and a total avoidance of finery. A much greater degree of prudery, if it may be so called, is exercised in France than in England, with regard to dress; the robes of ladies of all ages conceal much more of the bust and shoulders. They claim some merit for this delicacy, though ill-natured people are not wanting who declare that *prudence* has more to say to the concealment than modesty; the French busts and shoulders being very inferior to the English. Of the former I have had no means of judging, because they are so covered by the dress; but of the latter, all must pronounce that they are charming. Great reserve is maintained by the French ladies in society: shaking hands with gentlemen is deemed indecorous; but to touch a lady's hand with the lips, while bowing over it, is considered respectful. The conversation of young ladies with their partners in the dance is nearly confined to monosyllables; and when ended, they resume their seats by the side of their respective mothers, or *chaperons*, only speaking when spoken to, and always with an air of reserve, which is never laid aside in public.

16th.—How different is all that I see, from what I had imagined, of French manners and customs! of which, in England, people form truly erroneous opinions. There, those who have never resided in France, suppose that in it a much greater latitude in respect to demeanour prevails than with us; but judging by what I have observed, I consider that here a stricter attention to decorum, in externals at least, is exhibited. I am, however, far too patriotic to admit that this reserve and decorum arises from, or indicates, a superiority of the French ladies over our own in moral worth or real modesty: for, in these qualities, none can exceed ours; the frankness of their manners, and the freedom allowed them in society being irrefragable proofs of the just confidence reposed in them by those to whom they are best known. But to strangers, who behold only the surface, the impression produced by the extreme reserve of young French women, is, that they are more carefully brought up than ours are, and impose a greater restraint on their male acquaintances.

18th.—A box of English books and newspapers—what a comfort! Strange how the love of home grows on one when absent from it! Like the effect produced by absence on lovers, all faults are forgotten; and all merits remembered with increased fondness. The very smell of the brown paper in the packing-case breathed of London, the recollection of whose dense fogs and smoky coal fires, I can at present dwell on with something approaching to good-will, because they are so mingled with pleasant reminiscences. And now I can read the papers, which prate of

the whereabouts of many dear friends. It is like hearing Parisian anecdotes six months old, in the province, when they are forgotten, in the capital. I can ascertain when the King took his airings, where Lord A. dined, and Lady B. *déjeunée*'d; who are among the fashionable arrivals and departures, and a hundred other equally interesting particulars. Commend me to *The Morning Post*, which keeps the world *au fait* of how patricians are passing their time; and wafts over to me the intelligence of their doings even at this remote spot. The habit of noting down the movements of fashionable people is one of the customs which the French people cannot comprehend. The aristocracy with them has ceased to possess power, or to inspire interest; hence, they are surprised that people can attach any curiosity to their movements in other countries, and are disposed to ridicule rather than imitate our practice. They shrug their shoulders, smile, and exclaim, "*C'est bien drôle*;" and rejoice in the perfect freedom from notoriety which they possess. They ask many questions relative to fashion and fashionable people, terms very embarrassing to their comprehension. "Is fashion," demand my French acquaintances, "confined to the aristocracy? is wealth an indispensable requisite for its attainment? and is beauty deemed necessary?" When told that none of those advantages are positively essential; nay, that a fashionable person may be destitute of them all, they are astonished: but when informed that individuals in possession of all three, are frequently not considered fashionable, there is no bound to their surprise. "What, then, is fashion?" ask they. To the simple answer that it is a conventional mystery, and, like many of those practised by the soothsayers of old, which even the framers, while juggling others, did not quite understand, they exclaim, "Yes, you English are the strangest people in the world! and this slavery to fashion proves it. But how does a person become fashionable without rank, wealth, or beauty?" "A lucky introduction to one or two individuals belonging to a society deemed *à la mode*; half a dozen people proclaiming the person to be charming, *spirituel*, or full of talent; until the whole circle, growing accustomed to hear it, at last repeat it in the most devout good faith to others. Hence, it travels into the papers; the person is seen in a few distinguished houses, asked to others because seen in them; and finally becomes thoroughly *répandu* in society, although, were the claims for this popularity analysed, they would be found very few and trifling. Perhaps it is to this very mediocrity, that the fashionable people owe their success; for having no qualities calculated to excite envy, they are allowed to pass current like an ordinary coin, when a fine medal would be strictly examined."

"What is a *bore*?" asked one of my French female friends last

night. "At Paris," continued she, "I have heard English people, when talking to each other, say, What a bore he or she is! Now pray give me your definition of a bore?" "A person who tells you about *himself*, when you wish to hear only of *yourself*," was my simple explanation, which made them smile. One said, "*Ah! oui, vous avez raison; Monsieur —, par exemple, est un bore.*" What made it more piquant was, that a few evenings before, one of the company, the same lady who approved my definition, had denounced an acquaintance as a person *bien ennuyeux*, who knew little of the usages of good society, for he had usurped the conversation for a quarter of an hour, talking of himself all the while.

20th.—As the time draws near for quitting Avignon, I begin to regret the many amiable and agreeable acquaintances we shall leave behind. They appear, and in truth I believe are, equally loth to see us depart; for without arrogating to ourselves any very extraordinary powers of pleasing, we must have assisted to enliven the monotony of a provincial town; where the same faces, and the same opinions, are as well known as the hangings of the rooms their owners occupy. The French are prone to seek and to find amusement in all things; a fresh visitor, a new source of conversation, gratifies them, and they are gracious and kind to those who furnish them. I shall depart from Avignon with regret, taking, and leaving behind, kind recollections.

23rd. — staid with us two days, on his route to Italy. Poor man, he looks as if his search after health would be a fruitless one. How a long residence in England narrows the thoughts, if not the feelings! He could talk of nothing but London and its exclusive circles; to which people are only proud to belong, *because* they are exclusive. Vanity of vanities! The exclusive circle reminds one of freemasonry, where the mystery and difficulty of entering forms the chief attraction; and the ceremonies of which the neophytes are bound to conceal, in order that others may be equally induced to fraternize. When poor ——— has spent some months at Rome or Naples, he will be able to talk of the principesse, duchesse, marchese, or contesse, with some dulcet names attached to them, with as much unction as he now names the leaders of fashion in London; and the exchange will, at least in sound, be more harmonious. Strange, that people should imagine the circle in which *they* live, to be *the* world: the spider probably thinks that the web it has created is the universe! ——— is a man by no means deficient in intelligence or education, but he has wasted the powers of his mind by dwelling in a narrow focus, and by adopting the conventional notions of its members. It would be difficult to persuade him that persons who do *not* belong to the *clique* to which he appertains, can be distinguished for attain-

ments or agreeability; although he is ready to admit that many of those who do, are sadly wanting in those qualifications. Yet how many are to be found who resemble — in this respect, without possessing his mildness, good breeding, and good nature!

25th.—There is really no end to the kindness of our new friends at Avignon. All manner of edibles are showered into our hotel as presents — fish, game, fruit, preserves, cakes, and wine; and, what is more acceptable than all, *fresh* butter, that being a rare luxury here, and only attainable by those who have estates in the neighbourhood. Among other gifts, is a rare and curious book of plates, with epigraphs, a political party satire on James II., entitled *Le Théâtre d'Angleterre*. Some of the prints are very amusing, although not very reverential towards majesty. Some fine specimens of coloured glass, of the fifteenth century, have also been presented to me; so that I shall have many tangible, as well as mental, *souvenirs* of Avignon.

27th.—The Rhône has shown itself to-day in more than usual grandeur. Two days of incessant rain, a rare occurrence here, has swoln it far beyond its ordinary bounds, and it rushes rapidly along; its turbid water, of a dark yellow colour, resembling gold that has lost its brightness. The boats pass on its bosom with a fleetness quite surprising, and the boatmen seem to like the velocity with which they are swept along. The sight is really an imposing one; and the animated groups that hover by the sides of the impetuous river, enjoyed it, apparently, as much as we did. The fashionable ladies of Avignon now exhibit *les dernières modes de Paris*; not those of a past season, but *fresh as imported*, being sent, not through the medium of a milliner in the town, but direct from the magazines of Herbault and Victorine to their respective customers. Even in this remote and retired place, fashion holds her subjects in control; and each of the gentle sex is anxious to propitiate the capricious divinity by courting her smiles in the newest bonnet, mantle, or shawl, that she has invented.

29th.—The carnival has commenced, for even Avignon indulges in this pleasure, which resembles the saturnalia of the Romans, when the slaves were allowed to forget their bondage; all ranks and classes partaking in the somewhat riotous gaiety of this celebration. Young ladies are getting ready their simple but becoming *robes de bal*; and matrons their more costly ones of satin and velvet. The diligence from Paris arrives laden with packing-cases, containing hats, caps, wreaths of flowers, and tasteful dresses, to be exhibited at the fêtes to be given during the carnival. And all the results of this preparation, attended with no inconsiderable expense, will meet no other eyes than those accustomed to behold the wearers every evening during the winter. This increase,

therefore, of expenditure, surely indicates a strong wish to please either their friends or — themselves. The truth is, women have an innate love of dress; and, I believe, many a one might be found who would attire herself with a careful attention to taste, though her mirror alone was witness to the effect produced.

31st.—The *vent de bise* has set in, and realised all the fears we entertained of its severity. Nothing can be more detestable or perfidious; for while a bright sun lures one from the fireside, this treacherous wind rushes from behind the corner of the first street you enter, and penetrates through every muscle of the frame, making the cheeks blue, the nose red, and the eyes tearful. Every soul one encounters in the streets, looks like a gorgon; curls are blown into straight and lanky locks; bonnets are twisted into most uncouth shapes, and draperies are driven from the limbs they were meant to cover. In short, the streets present figures that strikingly resemble some of the good prints of a windy day. The inhabitants, although accustomed to the visits of this rough and disagreeable guest, betray no inconsiderable dread at his approach; and each person one encounters exclaims, "*Ah, quelle horreur! le vent de bise est venu.*" Our east wind is not to be compared with the *bise* in its chilling coldness; although I think its effects on the spirits is much more depressing. Here, the people complain of the wind incessantly, but it leaves them the power of complaining; while an east wind, with us, attacks the trachea, and deprives one nearly of the capability of expressing the injury it inflicts, even when most tormentingly incited to it by physical suffering. The streets and roads, which, two days ago, were inundated with water and mud, are now as dry as in summer; so completely has the wind parched up the watery substance that covered them.

I believe that a gloomy person is a creature unknown among the French. Whatever cause for discontent or affliction which may occur, the effect is an increase of animation. Joy and sorrow find the same safety-valve for the escape of undue excitement. "*Je suis si malheureux,*" or "*Je suis si content,*" is uttered with an earnestness that leaves no doubt of the truth of the assertion, whatever suspicions it may excite as to the duration of the sentiment that prompted it. The suppression of external symptoms of grief or happiness among the French is rarely practised. They give utterance to their feelings with a *naïveté* resembling that of children; and this *naïveté* has a peculiar charm, as an indication of an amiable confidence in the interest of those to whom it is evinced. We betray a deeper knowledge of human nature, by concealing, except from a few dear and chosen friends, our sorrow and our joy.

February 8th.—A long chasm in my journal, the result of indisposition. The *vent de bise* has proved too severe even for my

northern nerves; and I have been unable to read, write, or think, under the severe cold it inflicted. I am told change of air will cure me; and mean to try its effect in a few days.

12th.—*Mardi-gras* was ushered in with various ceremonies, offering a strange mixture of devotion and profaneness. Processions of the different religious orders, male and female, bearing crosses and other symbols of their faith, were met at every street by groups dressed in the most fantastic and grotesque masquerade habits. All this was not pleasing to English eyes, and was calculated to convey no very favourable notion of the religion that tolerates it. It was curious to see scaramouches and other ridiculous masks bowing to the cross and saintly banners of the church, as they came in contact, and then turning away to perform the antics of their *rôles*.

Aix, 17th.—The parting from our friends at Avignon yesterday, was more painful than one could have imagined a parting could be, from persons to whom three months ago we were strangers. But there is truth in the old adage, that "Liking begets liking," and we experienced too many proofs of good-will from our acquaintances, not to feel a lively interest in their welfare, and a strong sympathy in their regret at our separation. The pockets of our carriages were plentifully filled with cakes, bonbons, orange-flower water, and bouquets of flowers, each fair friend bringing an offering for our journey; and many were the reiterated good wishes and kind adieus that greeted our ears as we drove off from the hotel, in which we had spent many agreeable days. And all this has passed away like a dream; and here we are *en route* again. The road between Avignon and Orgon has nothing to diversify it, except the wooden bridge, of an immense span, which crosses the Durance; and the convent of the Chartreuse, which is romantically situated. The aspect of the country is wild and dreary, bounded by barren hills, with sombre olive trees and cedars, which are so few, and far between, that they only increase the gloomy character of the scenery. Our courier having advanced rapidly before us, we found an excellent dinner and a blazing wood fire; a dinner so good as to lead to the belief that an inn producing such a one must afford tolerable sleeping-rooms. But this was far from being the case; and more wretched apartments, or more miserable-looking beds, than those allotted to travellers, I never beheld. It is a remarkable circumstance that, while even in a bad inn in France a good dinner can generally be obtained, the sleeping and sitting-rooms are destitute of all comfort; whereas, in England, it is precisely *vice versâ*. The rooms and furniture in an English inn present really a respectable appearance; while the dinners are in general execrable, and served with a pre-

tension that renders one still less disposed to pardon their badness. Soup, tasting of nothing but pepper, fish not often fresh, the everlasting beefsteak, with its accustomed garnish of horse-radish, an unsuccessful attempt at cutlets *pannées*, half-boiled vegetables, and a stale tart, is the general bill of fare served up: and all this melancholy resemblance of a dinner is introduced with a flourish of gaudy plated covers, borne by two or three well-dressed waiters, headed by the master or mistress, who seem to think that the showy covers are more important than the viands they conceal. The table presents a goodly appearance until the dishes are uncovered; when lo! the paucity and ordinary quality of their contents sadly disappoint the incipient hopes and aspirations of the hungry traveller; whose expectations of a plenteous repast have been most powerfully excited by the attendant finery. Then comes the bill, as ample in its dimensions as the dinner was scanty; every item being a separate charge, and the total amounting to a sum for which an excellent dinner might have been furnished. Yes, with all my love of England, and no one loves it more, I must confess that there are some things in it that require correction; and bad dinners, and expensive charges, are amongst the number.

In a French inn, the table linen is not remarkable for its fineness or whiteness, but still it is clean; the viands are not served up under richly chased plated covers, nor are the knives of a good appearance; and the dishes are not brought up by two or three well-dressed waiters. But a good soup, a *fricandeau à l'oseille*, or *chicorée*, with *côtelettes à la minute*, *poulet à la tartare*, *pommes de terre à la maître d'hôtel*, followed by a smoking hot *soufflé à la vanille*, consoles one for these good things being placed on the table by a *garçon* in a jacket of coarse materials, assisted by a girl whose dress is more picturesque than neat: and, subsequently, a small piece of paper, on which the sum of five francs per head for each guest is inscribed, is a crowning grace to the whole, and saves time and money. That they manage a dinner, at least, better in a French inn than with us, surely every traveller who is capable of judging of one must admit.

Aix is a place of considerable extent, and has one extremely fine street, which is separated from the boulevards at each side of it by rows of large trees; similar ones dividing the boulevards from the paved narrow street, at each side beyond them. A long line of remarkably fine houses bound the view, running the length of the street, and three handsome fountains grace the centre. The effect is very striking; and conveys more the idea of a quarter in some large capital than the principal street in a provincial town.

18th.—The sun shines so brilliantly, and the air is so mild, that

one might fancy it the end of April, instead of February. How delightful to anticipate the genial spring by two whole months! If this weather will but last, it is worth coming to France to enjoy it; at least to persons like me, who suffer from cold. The climate is, I am told, infinitely superior to that of Avignon; and I can readily believe this, from the specimen we have had already, the difference in warmth being very great. The town is of considerable extent, the streets good and clean, the shops apparently well stocked, and the *cafés*, those indispensable luxuries of French towns, thronged with guests, sipping their mocha or lemonade. House rent is so very moderate here, and provisions so cheap and abundant, that many families make it their winter residence.

The cathedral is worthy of notice, for its admirably carved doors, and its fine remains of ancient architecture. The cloisters are very interesting. They form a square, in the centre of which is an open space; the arcades are supported by double columns of good proportions, and excellent workmanship; the capitals of which are of different orders, some crowned by grotesque figures, and others by foliage. In one of the aisles of the church a circular dome has been erected, sustained by eight stupendous Corinthian columns, six of which are of marble, and two of granite. They are very ancient, and were formerly appropriated to some other building. Fine as they are, they must be acknowledged to be misplaced in their present situation. A curious picture, said to be painted by King René, ornaments the church. It is inclosed in a very singular old frame, which opens in the centre; and on fête days, or on the visit of strangers, it is unlocked, that the picture may be seen. The memory of the good King René is still revered at Aix, and his accomplishments as a poet, painter, and musician, are recorded. He was a warm encourager of, if not one of the Troubadours of Provence; and Jane de Laval, his consort, emulated him in her love of the fine arts. Aix was also the residence of Raimond Berenger, of the House of Barcelona, and last Count of Provence. He was an admirer and patron of poetry, and is said to have cultivated the gentle art with no mean skill; but for this assertion we have only tradition, as no specimen of his verses is given by St. Pelaie. Beatrix, Countess of Provence, his wife, is included among the Troubadours, and the only specimen of her poetry given, by no means justifies this distinction, either in the sentiment or expression, for it contains an encouragement to a timid lover, that argues little for the modesty of the writer. Beatrix was celebrated for her beauty, talents, and generosity. To her husband the poets owed an exemption from all public taxes. It was this Raimond who was reproached by Dante, in his sixth canto, "del Paradiso," for his conduct to

Romieu, in which the ingratitude not unfrequently attributed to the great towards those who have served them, was said to have been strongly marked. It is, however, but justice to add, that Raimond, becoming subsequently sensible of his error, generously recompensed the services of Romieu by the grant of the town of Vence, and other possessions. A considerable portion of the exterior of the church is highly decorated in the florid gothic style. An octagon tower, the most ancient part of the building, is of plain and simple architecture, more remarkable for solidity than for beauty.

19th.—Delivered our letters of introduction to the Marquis de L. and to M. Revoil, which brought us both these gentlemen shortly after, with polite offers of enacting the parts of ciceroni to us during our sojourn here. There are no less than seven private collections of objects of art and antiquity at Aix, each and all worthy of attention; but M. Revoil's is the most perfect of its kind. It embraces pictures and enamels by the earliest masters, with those of a late date; forming a series illustrative of the history of the progress of the two arts. Among the enamels, we noticed the portrait of Dianne de Poitiers, with a child. They are drawn as Venus and Cupid, and nothing can be more graceful or happily portrayed. It would be tedious to enumerate even a quarter of the treasures in this collection; in which are comprised ancient armour, chased and ornamented, warlike implements of every description, *armoires* of finely carved ebony, filled with all the paraphernalia of female toilets of early date; mirrors of polished steel, pins, combs, rings, and costly ornaments; vases, enriched with antique gems, small busts of onyx, sardonyx, and white cornelian, set with precious stones; daggers mounted, with carved handles of ivory, mother-of-pearl, steel, amber, silver and gold, many of them with jewelled settings; watches of every age; keys of every description; and, in short, every object of art and taste, from the grand to the minute, that could serve as specimens of the articles used in the past ages. All the things are so well classed and arranged, that they serve to form a sort of history of each century, by displaying the objects of use and luxury, and marking the progressive improvement made in them. M. Revoil is considered one of the best modern French painters, and at Paris his pictures are eagerly sought, and liberally purchased, by the most fastidious connoisseurs. On looking at his collection, one is surprised that so extensive and choice a one could have been brought together in the life of one individual, or by a person whose wealth was not very great; but it is a proof of what industry, indefatigable zeal, and good taste, can accomplish, when they are combined. The fifteenth century was, indeed, an epoch rich in art;

and the beautiful specimens of it here assembled impress the beholder with an increased veneration for the worthies of that period, and the artists who wrought for them.

20th.—M. Revoil accompanied us in our peregrinations to-day, and it would have been impossible to have found a more enlightened or erudite cicerone. He has studied Aix and the different treasures it contains *con amore*, and explains them with a precision that leaves nothing to be desired. Our first visit was to the collection of Monsieur Sallier, which contains pictures, statues, Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman antiquities, vases, lachrymatories, and sarcophagi, all of great rarity and beauty. The gem of his collection is a small statue of Jupiter, found at Orange, which, for dignity and expression, could not be surpassed by a statue of large dimensions. It is partly draped, and the execution of the folds is admirable.

The collection of the Marquis L. is confined to medals, in which it is very rich. The owner exerted towards us all the attention which the French are never backward in paying to those well recommended to them; and has impressed us with a very favourable opinion of his hospitality.

We have had nothing to complain of at Aix, except the impossibility of procuring either cream or butter, or, at least, any that is palatable. There is only one cow in the town, which is the property of an English family settled here; and goats, of which there are an abundant stock, serve but as sorry substitutes; their milk destroying the flavour of tea and coffee. The inhabitants of Aix are quite satisfied with goat's milk, proclaim that it is far more wholesome, and quite as agreeable; but in the latter assertion I cannot coincide with them. The butter is brought from a distance, and is abominable; but to its bad quality habit has inured the people here; and our landlady seemed to think us very fastidious when we desired it to be removed from the table, where its odour was really offensive.

MARSEILLES, 22nd.—Travelling is the true secret of multiplying enjoyment, by furnishing a succession of new objects. I feel this, as fresh scenes are presented to me, keeping the mind in a continual state of agreeable excitement, without fatiguing it. The approach to Marseilles is striking, and the first view caught of the sea from a steep hill at some distance is truly grand. The blue waters extend boldly to the left, until they are seen mingling and confounded with the distant horizon; while, to the left, Marseilles, with her forest of masts, and stately buildings, bounds the prospect. Villas, thickly scattered round the environs, greatly ornament the scene, by affording a pleasing contrast to the view. The quays offer a never-failing object of interest. Here crowds of

persons of all nations may be daily seen, all apparently absorbed in business :—the Turk and Armenian, in their picturesque costumes, are seen mingling with Italian sailors, in their bright scarlet caps, and English ones, with the round glazed hats, trim jackets, and white linen, conspicuously displaying that personal cleanliness for which they are remarkable. Merchants of all countries, servants of all nations, are bustling about ; the *mélange* giving animation to the varied picture, which forcibly reminded me of many paintings of the old masters, in which similar scenes are represented. The inns are good, and the one in which we have taken up our abode is excellent. The cook gave us a good specimen of his talents last evening, on our arrival ; and maintained his reputation to-day by a *déjeuner à la fourchette*, that would not have dishonoured Monsieur Ude himself. How much more rational are *déjeuners à la fourchette* than luncheons ; the first succeeding to a single cup of coffee or tea, taken some three hours before, and the second being the successor to a plentiful morning repast, producing repletion, with its long catalogue of evils. Drove to-day to the Villa or Château La Pannis, in the environs of Marseilles, and saw some good pictures ; but a Georgione, radiant as sunshine, threw all the others into the shade. It positively was dazzling ;—such golden hues, and such carnation tints—none but one of the Venetian school, and one too of the very best of it, could ever have achieved. I was tempted to break the tenth commandment, and to envy the Marquis La Pannis the possession of this beautiful picture.

23rd. — Went to the museum, which has some good specimens of Grecian sculpture and sarcophagi, and then visited the public library, which is extensive, and has many manuscripts, but none very remarkable. Visited the coral-manufactories, and saw that marine substance converted into every possible shape that fancy could devise, or industry execute : it forms a considerable branch of commerce here, and is in great demand among strangers.

The *mistral*, or *vent de bise*, which is so much felt at Avignon, is scarcely less powerful or less dreaded here. It prevails during a great part of the year in Provence ; but is most prevalent along the banks of the Rhône, on whose breast it disports with no gentle gambols, but with the anger of Boreas, in his most ill-natured moods. So destructive are the effects of this wind to the eyes, that the greater number of the class most exposed to it are martyrs to diseases of these organs. Yet, though so pernicious to the sight, it is not without its advantages in other respects ; as it purifies the air, and renders the excessive heat less injurious to health. It generally blows after heavy rain, all traces of which it dispels with a rapidity almost incredible.

Marseilles has less of the characteristics of a large city than any town of its extent that I know, but bears in every street the impress of a sea-port. Sailors of every grade, from the yellow-faced admiral, whose countenance has been bronzed by exposure to tropical climes, down to the rosy-cheeked midshipman, whose plump face has not yet lost the sleekness peculiar to childhood, and whose curly locks look as if a mother's hand had often played with them, are met at every step; bustling along with that heaving motion which would always indicate their profession, even without the uniform that belongs to it.

Sailors of every nation are a fine race; but, without undue partiality, I may say, that none can be compared with our own; and as I heard some of them conversing as they walked, in those accents and that language dear to me, I felt as if each rough face was that of an old friend, with whom it was a pleasure to meet. It is in a foreign land that we most love our own, and turn with kindness to every individual belonging to it. Precious and mysterious sympathy implanted in our hearts for wise purposes, cold must be the heart where thou art not cherished!

TOULON, 25th.—The route from Marseilles to Toulon, for the first few miles, is rendered tedious and monotonous by being inclosed between stone walls. The villas too, scattered at either side of the road, are disfigured by the same hideous barrier which gives them the appearance of prisons. With all the advantages of climate and situation, the total want of taste and neatness evident in the generality of country-houses in France, renders them little desirable as residences. Often therefore in passing through beautiful and romantic scenery, disfigured by edifices bidding alike defiance to taste and comfort, I have wished that some of our picturesque Elizabethan structures, or pretty cottages, were transported thither, and interspersed through the rich landscapes which only require their presence to be perfect.

Aubagne, two posts from Marseilles, was the birth-place of the Abbé Barthélemy. The house in which he resided still exists; and, as I viewed it, I thought of the pleasant hours passed in reading Anacharsis' Travels, with a sentiment of gratitude towards the memory of its author, that gave the abode an additional interest for me. The neighbourhood of Aubagne is remarkable for its romantic features; and De Lille has celebrated the valley of Gemenos, which is in its vicinity.

As we advance more southward, a considerable difference is visible in the appearance of the country. The olive trees are larger, and their green is of a less sombre hue than those around Avignon; and the almond-trees, with their delicate and snowy blossoms,

form a beautiful contrast to the dark foliage of the other trees. The fields too, are clothed with vegetation of the most lively and brilliant verdure, and the climate is more genial.

The approach to Toulon is striking and picturesque, being a narrow ravine, bounded at each side by steep rocks of fantastic forms, rudely piled in large masses, some overhanging the road, half poised, as it were, in air.

26th.—This is a town of considerable extent, and the modern portion of it is well built, and remarkably clean. Three sides of the town are bounded by lofty mountains, and the fourth is open to the sea. Male foreigners are not permitted to see the arsenal; but ladies are more gallantly treated, and an intelligent guide was appointed to attend my female friends and self over the whole building. The first place shown to us was the sculpture-hall, which is divided into two compartments. One is occupied by persons employed in carving the different ornaments for ships; and in the other are arranged with the utmost order, models and skeletons of ships, with all the parts from the hold to the most minute rope, each object marked and numbered to explain its use. Every modern invention and improvement that has been applied to ships is exhibited in miniature; and mechanism, to judge by the specimens here displayed, seems to have attained no ordinary degree of perfection in France. The sides of this fine hall are covered with carved figure-heads and sterns for vessels, on which much workmanship and gilding has been lavished. Among the best, are some colossal figures by the celebrated Puget. The drawing-room of one of our neatest English houses could not be more perfectly free from the least soil than was this hall; and the compartment occupied by the sculptors wore an air of cleanliness and order that I thought incompatible with the habits of artisans. We paused to examine the works in hand, some of which were executed with a spirit and skill that emulated those of Puget. Some panels with *bassi rilievi*, admirably carved, would not have disgraced Fiamingo. From the hall of sculpture we proceeded to the guard-room, which was also scrupulously clean. The beds and tables were so well contrived, that they might be turned up or down in the space of two minutes. The knapsacks of the soldiers were hung at the heads of each bed, and the apartment was so well ventilated, that its atmosphere was pure.

We next visited the building allotted to the *Galériens*, and were gratified by observing that the captivity of these wretched beings was rendered less disagreeable by their having the benefit of cleanliness and good air. Their dormitories are of large dimensions and are arranged in rows, the bedding clean and white; but our humanity was not a little shocked at beholding the large staples

attached to the foot of each bed for fastening the chains of the convicts, so that even in sleep, they feel the galling fetters of slavery. The great number of these unhappy men are linked in couples; those sentenced for life are distinguished by green cloth caps, and the whole are dressed in a brick-coloured cloth. It not unfrequently occurs that those paired, but not mated couples, quarrel and proceed to personal violence; in which case, they are treated as refractory dogs would be under similar circumstances. Those who have any trade are allowed to practice it, provided their conduct is found deserving of this indulgence; and we saw several ingenious toys and trinkets, the produce of their industry, by the sale of which they earn a considerable sum. Those who have not been brought up to any trade are employed in laborious occupations. The celebrated Comte de St. Helene is among the convicts; and shrinks from observation with a sensitiveness that precludes the indulgence of curiosity—at least, in every humane person. Another individual was pointed out to us as having acquired an unenviable celebrity by his crimes. The appearance and manners of this convict were those of a gentleman, notwithstanding the hideous dress he wore. He was employed in engraving a cocoa-nut, and displayed great taste and skill in the execution of his task, and presented it for our inspection with a grace that would not have shamed a finished courtier. This man once possessed a large fortune, and had been mayor of Dijon. His wife had great wealth independent of him, and he sought every means to induce her to resign it in his favour. She resisted all his entreaties and threats; and was shortly after found dead in her apartment, with her feet and legs scorched. The body bore the marks of strangulation, as also of fire; for the assassin had attempted to consume the corse, in order that it might be believed that she had been accidentally burned; but all his efforts to ignite the body were fruitless. He was taken up on suspicion of the murder; and though the proofs of his guilt were not sufficiently strong to convict him to death, they were deemed conclusive enough to draw on him a sentence of condemnation to the galleys for life. This man's countenance would have puzzled Gall and Spurzheim, so calm and benevolent was its character. One cannot help wishing that crime had fixed an indelible stamp on the physiognomies of those who so cruelly violate the laws of humanity, to serve either as a beacon to warn us of danger; or else as a visible sign of that internal torture which we would fain believe must spring from the commission of guilt. It is revolting to witness the calmness that should only accompany conscious innocence, marked on the front of guilt and vice. When remorse or its effects are visible, we forget the sternness of justice in commiseration.

tion for the criminal; but when obduracy or indifference are evident, disgust and horror alone prevail.

A large hall is filled with convicts, who are employed in hackling, and dressing flax and hemp; another apartment contains some two or three hundred spinners, who use wheels similar to those common in Ireland; and in another hall are looms, at which several hands are employed. A tread-mill is also established here, turned by three men, who are changed every three hours.

The *salle des armes*, or armoury, was the next object that attracted our attention. The arms are arranged in three parallel lines, the centre wide, with a less at each side. In the middle of the interior line is a highly ornamented pedestal, on which stands a finely executed marble bust of Louis XVIII., surrounded by military trophies formed by swords and bayonets, diverging into rays, the whole surmounted by white flags richly embroidered. At the end, is a large figure of Bellona, richly habited; and at the other terminations, are figures in fine armour. The arms in this room are as bright as silver; and the effect of the whole is very brilliant.

The timber-yard and forges are on a large scale, but immeasurably inferior to those at Portsmouth. The *corderie*, or rope-walk, surpassed our expectations. It is built of stone, and is constructed in three parallel lines, divided by pillars that support the roof, which is arched and groined. This room, if room it may be called, is above two thousand feet in length, and people seen from one extremity of it, at the other, have the appearance of puppets. This building was planned by Vauban, and does credit to his skill as an architect. We were shown the process by which cables are manufactured, as also the *voilerie* in which the sails for ships are made. The forges and joiners' shops next claimed our attention. They are on an extensive scale, and good order prevails over each. We then visited the magazine, the various contents of which are arranged with an exactness that precludes the possibility of mistake or confusion. The dock is about three hundred feet long, and one hundred wide; in front is a sluice-gate, which may be opened or shut as required; and at the back, is a building containing a vast number of pumps. By the sluice-gate the basin is filled with water, when ships require admission into it; and by the pumps it is emptied, when they stand in need of repair.

28th.—We saw eight very fine ships of one hundred and twenty guns each, and several ones of a less calibre. We went on board one of the first mentioned, named "Le Royal Louis," a very magnificent vessel, at least as far as decoration is concerned. It strikes me that the whole of the arsenal, as well as the ships, have a pretension to ultra good order about them which indicates that the navy, with our Gallic neighbours, is as yet but an affair of luxury;

while with us there is much less display, but infinitely more utility.

The Duchesse de Berri came to France in this ship, which was splendidly furnished for the occasion; and the gallery that surrounds the state cabin, which she occupied, was filled with the rarest flowering shrubs and exotics. Little could she have anticipated the melancholy event that awaited her! but happily the book of Fate is sealed; or few even of the most prosperous could support the anticipated knowledge of their destinies. Providence has mercifully so constituted us, that our minds adapt themselves to calamities, because our sensibility of their poignancy is dulled by some mitigating circumstance attending them, and by the previous experience of minor afflictions. But although the gradation of suffering may inure, or enable us to bear them, an aggregate view of the misfortunes all are born to undergo, would be more than humanity could support. The Bourbons, like the Stuarts, seem fated to many trials. Heaven send they may have more wisdom to profit by them! Misfortune should teach us to avoid every road that may lead to its portals; and I trust Louis XVIII. has acquired this wisdom.

Toulon is indebted to Louis XII. for its origin as a harbour; and to Francis I. for the completion of the tower commenced by Louis. Henry IV. fortified the town, but Louis XIV. has been its greatest benefactor; for to him it owes all the various works that now enrich it. Napoleon also was among the patrons of Toulon; for, grateful for the fame acquired here in early manhood, he planned and caused to be erected a fortification that attests his skill as an engineer. The climate is much milder than at Marseilles, and many curious plants are indigenous to the soil; delicate exotics, too, which in other parts of the south of France, gardeners have failed in rearing, here flourish. The botanical garden, though not extensive, contains many valuable specimens of shrubs, plants, and flowers, as well as trees. The palm-trees are large and healthy, and the tea and coffee trees, the latter covered with berries, thrive well.

FRÉJUS, 28th.—The country between Toulon and this place is the most interesting that we have yet traversed in France, particularly towards the latter part of it. Large rocks are scattered along, nearly covered with aloes of luxuriant growth, which add much to the picturesque effect of the scenery. The entrance to Fréjus is very striking. To the right, a fine view of the sea presents itself; and to the left, some remains of Roman buildings, consisting of a pile of broken colonnades. The ruins of an amphitheatre, an arch, a temple, and an aqueduct, are still visible; the latter must have been of considerable extent, as many of its arches remain, the intervals between them filled up by fragments of stone

overgrown with ivy, or broken by groups of olive trees, mingled with the melancholy cypress, which harmonises well with these interesting monuments of antiquity. I have never seen a more picturesque scene than was here presented to me. The blue waters of the Mediterranean, sparkling like sapphire beneath the rays of the sun, spread themselves out until their hues mingle in the far distant horizon with the fainter blue of the clouds; while innumerable white sails are wafted over their surface, looking like birds skimming some immense lake. When the eye turns to the other side of the picture, snatches of a rich landscape are seen through the different arches of the ruins, which are festooned with ivy and drooping wreaths of wild flowers. There is no such beautifier of scenery as Time; he wreathes the ruin with parasitical plants, and gives to the oak its grandeur. Beneath his touch the feudal castle loses its harshness, and the abbey receives a more mellowed tint. It is on us poor mortals alone that his power is terrific; for in destroying every beauty, he gives not even a picturesque effect to the ruins he has made. Who ever saw a picturesque-looking old man, or woman, except in a picture? and to produce this effect, the painter is obliged more to imagine, than to imitate.

Fréjus was much favoured by Cæsar, who commenced a port here, which was completed by Augustus. It is reputed to have been of immense extent; and it is said that Augustus sent to it three hundred vessels, taken from Antony at the battle of Actium. A fleet was kept here, which served to defend the coast as far as Marseilles; so that this now deserted place was once considered an important one by the masters of the world. Here was born Julius Agricola, the conqueror of Britain, and the father-in-law of Tacitus the historian. *Conqueror of Britain!* I do not like the sound; it is, God be thanked, one unknown to English ears for many a century. May it ever, ever, so continue!

It was at this port that Napoleon landed in 1799, on his return from his unsuccessful expedition in Egypt: and that he embarked, in 1814, to take possession of his narrow dominion at Elba. Fréjus could, therefore, have no agreeable associations for his mind, being the scene of two of the most mortifying events in his life. The climate of Fréjus is considered to be peculiarly unhealthy; yet the appearance of the place, or its inhabitants, bears no indication of the truth of this imputation. The soil is fertile, and the sea breezes invigorating; so that the insalubrity of the neighbourhood appears to be an unaccountable phenomenon.

CANNES, *March 2nd.*—Nothing can be more agreeable than the situation of the Pinchina, the inn where we have taken up our abode for a few hours: it fronts the sea, of which it commands an extensive view, with the islands of St. Marguerite and St. Honorat,

which seem placed as if to guard it. I should like to visit St. Marguerite, to see the chamber in which that, as yet, unsolved enigma of modern history—the man with the iron mask—was confined; but the sea is too rough for so timid a sailor as I am to venture on to-day, even for the gratification of my feminine curiosity.

The route from Fréjus to this place passes through a very picturesque country, and affords a fine view of the sea and land. The mountains of St. Tropez and Lestrelles add much to the beauty of the prospect. As we approached nearer to Cannes, cedars were mingled with the orange and lemon trees, which, even at this early season, look well. Of all that I have seen of France, this part of it is by far the most beautiful, and resembles the notion I have formed of Italy. The beach is animated by groups of fishermen busily employed in arranging their boats, while the women are seated on benches that front the sea, placed close to the long row of mean houses in which they reside, occupied in knitting, making nets, or in plying the distaff. Their dress, although sadly deficient in cleanliness, is picturesque; and the huge piles of fruit exhibited near them for sale adds to the picture.

At a short distance from Cannes, one of our postilions pointed out the place where Napoleon landed, on his disastrous return from Elba. "He took some slight refreshment," said the man, "and then bivouacked on that spot;" directing our attention to a small field surrounded by olive trees, close to the beach. Nothing could be more beautiful than the scene, the tranquil character of which must have offered a painful contrast to the internal agitation of its beholder—returned to the country that had rejected him, to plunge it in all the miseries of a civil war, and to accelerate his own destruction.

NICE, 4th.—I never saw any scenery that could surpass that which presents itself to the eye on crossing the mountains that lead to Antibes; and the eye is not the only organ of sense that is gratified: for the most grateful odours are inhaled at every step. The arbutus, myrtle, and jessamine grow in wild profusion at each side of the road; and the turf is bedded with wild thyme and innumerable other odoriferous plants and heaths, that exhale their perfumes. Orange trees are seen in greater abundance as Antibes is approached; and the dark green of their foliage relieves the sombre hue of the olive. Antibes has nothing to recommend it except its situation, and the port, which is of a circular form, with an extensive quay, and a range of arcades whose whiteness and good proportions have a light and elegant effect. Viewed from the distance, these arcades appear isolated; and look like fairy palaces rising from the sea. Two Roman towers must also be noticed, an examination of which cannot fail to gratify an antiquarian.

The prospect from the height above Antibes, is one of the finest I have ever seen. Hills covered with wood, whence a spire, village, or château, is seen to peep forth—the blue waters of the Mediterranean spread out in front, and the snow-crowned mountains of the maritime Alps rearing their heads to the clouds, form a magnificent picture.

From Antibes to Nice the road passes through a beautiful country, the sea always in view—at one turn of the route seen through trees, and, at the next, boldly dashing against the shore. At St. Laurent du Bar a long wooden bridge spans the river Var, which divides France from Piedmont. At this boundary a custom-house is established.

5th.—The situation of this place justifies its reputation as a healthful residence ; yet the climate is much less genial than I was led to expect ; for though we have a cloudless sky and sunshine, a piercing wind meets one at the corner of every street, and reminds one that an extra pelisse or shawl is very requisite. I cannot think that Nice can be a suitable winter residence for consumptive people, unless they confine themselves to the house, or only venture out in a close carriage. The town is so built that those who traverse it are exposed to frequent and violent currents of air, which are fraught with danger to an invalid ; nor are the houses well calculated to exclude cold. Yet, winter after winter, poor sufferers, who tremble at a breeze in their own comfortable homes, with all appliances to boot, to enable them to resist it, are sent from England by the mandate of physicians, who know little of Nice except its geographical position, to fade and die afar from the home they yearn to see again.

I am filled with pity when I meet some fair English girl with the bright hectic tinge on her delicate cheek, and the lustrous eyes, which betoken the presence of that most perfidious and fatal of all diseases, consumption, mounted on a pony, led by a father, a brother, or one who hoped to stand in a still more tender relation to her. I tremble when I see the warm cloak in which she is enveloped, swept by the rude wind from her shrinking shoulders, and hear that fearful cough which shakes her tortured chest. A few weeks, and such invalids, (and alas ! they are many,) are seen no more ; and the mourning parents retrace their route with the bitter knowledge that they left their home in vain, nay, that the change of climate which they fondly anticipated would have preserved their darling, had accelerated her death. Every turn here presents the sad view of some valetudinarian tottering along with feeble steps ; and faces, on which death has set his seal, pale shadows, that alas ! will soon disappear. Such sights make the heart sad ; and who can turn with delight to the glowing land-

scapes around Nice, or the sparkling blue waters that lave its coast, when our paths are almost momentarily crossed by those who bear about with them the visible symptoms of approaching dissolution?

6th.—Nice, though an extensive town with several streets, and one large square, is more deficient, in not only the elegancies but the comforts of life, than a place could be imagined to be, where so great an influx of wealth is poured in from England; and by persons peculiarly requiring some portion at least of the comforts to which they have been habituated. The streets are unclean, and the large square is the most cheerless and filthy I ever saw. How different would Nice be with a colony of English tradespeople! there would not then be the disgusting discrepancy that now exists between the beautiful country around and the town that disfigures it. Comfort, homely, but indispensable blessing, England is thy dwelling-place! there thou art wedded to good taste, and worshipped as the penates of happy homes: but rarely art thou encountered in other lands, where grandeur strives in vain to compensate for thine absence.

7th.—How strange it seems to us English, to be compelled to sit and take our repasts in a bed-room! This, we are, *bon gré, mal gré*, obliged to do in our inn; for there is not a room in it that has not one or two beds. We have made an agreement to-day, to pay an extra price for having the two beds that at present encumber our would-be *salon*, removed; but this arrangement was not effected without much difficulty, and many objections on the part of the landlord, who seemed to think us not a little fastidious for exacting such a sacrifice on his part. "But should more travellers arrive, it will be very inconvenient to keep them waiting while the beds are putting up," said our host; who could not imagine, that although we paid for an exclusive use of the room by the week, during the day, that he had not a right to turn it to his profit during the night. But a threat of our leaving the inn unless the suite of apartments which we occupied were appropriated solely to us, finally induced his entire compliance to our wishes; and, while I now write, I hear the operation of removing the beds proceeding in the adjoining chamber.

9th.—The rides about Nice are delightful, but the drives are limited to the high roads, which are much less interesting. The town is surrounded by a range of hills, covered with olive and orange trees, and thickly dotted with villas encircled by gardens. The atmosphere is so peculiarly clear that distant objects are seen with a distinctness that brings them in a rich contrast with the foreground; and the sea, always beautiful, and never to be beheld without renewed admiration, looks like an azure mirror placed by

Nature to reflect her works. A marble cross marks the spot at Nice where an interview took place between Francis I., Charles V., and Pope Paul III. As I stood on the spot, I could call up to my mind's eye these three remarkable men; but I found my fancy more disposed to dwell on the chivalrous sovereign of France, than on the mighty warrior of Spain, who exchanged a throne for a convent, or the churchman who established the Inquisition. I believe all women feel a stronger interest towards the memory of two French monarchs of ancient days than to any of their contemporaries. I refer to Henry IV. and Francis I. Both were distinguished by a bravery and courtesy that have a peculiar attraction for my sex; and the weaknesses of which they are accused, are precisely those which women are most disposed to pardon, except in the persons of their suitors, or their husbands.

10th.—We have made a very agreeable acquaintance here, in the Count Andriani, an Italian, and one of the most extraordinary examples of the triumph of mind over physical suffering, that I ever met with. He has been for many years a martyr to gout, and has tried the effects of all climates to gain a respite from this fearful scourge. But, in vain have been his efforts; and he has now been confined to this hotel for many months; his malady being so much increased that he dare not attempt moving. He seldom knows more than a few hours cessation from acute pain, yet during such intervals he is as cheerful, and his conversation is as brilliant, as if he were totally free from disease. He has lived much in England, and mixed intimately with the Whig Aristocracy, to whom he is exceedingly attached. His political bias confined him almost entirely to the society of those whom he denominated the Liberals; but he is free from prejudice, being a perfect cosmopolite. His information is as versatile as profound; his manners polished and vivacious; and his conversation pregnant with anecdote. He is wheeled into his *salon*, which he has had arranged à l'anglaise, every hour that he is free from pain; and those who have the privilege of admission, assemble round his easy chair, and bring him all the news of the day. He has a reception every evening, and nothing can be more agreeable than to make one of the party, which is composed of two or three ladies and as many gentlemen. Count Andriani is a tall dignified-looking man, with a clever and intellectual countenance; but his form is so attenuated by disease, that he looks like an animated shadow.

11th.—Went to Villa Franca to-day. It is a beautiful spot, has a considerable harbour, and a bay bounded at three sides by a chain of hills, covered with wood; the trees of which seem bending, as if to lave their branches in the blue waters. This bay has the appearance of a lake, and is so sheltered that its limpid surface

is scarcely rippled by the breeze. Beyond the wooded hill, the ocean is seen glittering beneath the rays of the sun; and the barrier which divides the bay from the open sea being one unbroken mass of foliage, has a most charming effect. The harbour is strongly fortified; and the lighthouse, white as Parian marble, which stands on the highest of a mass of rocks that project into the sea, as well as the fortress, adds much to the picturesque beauty of the picture. The villa in which Lady Olivia Sparrow resided, was pointed out to us; and it was pleasant to observe the high estimation in which the character of that lady was held. Her extensive charities have left an impression at Villa Franca that will not be speedily or easily obliterated. The carubia tree grows in wild luxuriance around Villa Franca, and the brilliant green of its foliage contrasts well with the sombre hue of the olive, and white blossoms of the almond trees. In the harbour, we saw the yacht in which the Rev. Mr. Way is about to sail, on his self-imposed mission to convert the Turks; and the beautiful vessel of Sir Thomas Maitland, on board of which we went. Its fitting-up unites elegance and comfort; and I can fancy few things more agreeable than sailing in it, among the Ionian Isles, where he is said to live *en souverain prince*.

12th.—Met, at Comte Andriani's, last evening, the Duc de Vallombrosa. How sonorous is the name, and how rife with associations! "Thick as leaves that fall at Vallombrosa." One looks with curiosity, if not with interest, at a man who bears a cognomen rendered dear and familiar to our ears by our Milton's having used it, and having visited the spot so named. The Duc de Vallombrosa has been in England, and speaks the language with facility. He won my good will by his warm praises of my country and its inhabitants; and after this bribe who could do otherwise than think well of him? Not I, I am sure. Comte Andriani speaks English with a purity and ease seldom met in a foreigner; but he has studied it *con amore*. The Comte de Rhode, a Prussian, who was many years ambassador from his court to Portugal, formed one of the society last evening. He is profoundly, and, I should say, painfully erudite; for being naturally *un peu lourd*, his power of displaying the extent of his *savoir* does not equal his desire. Nothing can be pleasanter than to witness the adroitness with which Comte Andriani helps him out in his narrations and illustrations. It is the very perfection of tact.

13th.—Made an excursion to the Convent de Cimiers to-day. It is one of the attractions of the environs. The route that leads to it presents many picturesque points of view; and the building, although a simple structure, is worthy of notice. It is adorned with paintings *al fresco*; the chapel is large, and has four altars; the principal one richly decorated, and the others crowned with

natural flowers, which have a very good effect. The convent has arcades all round it; the interior painted with scriptural subjects, and the garden commands a view of the sea, seen over a thickly wooded landscape, that heightens its beauty. The perfect cleanliness and repose of this convent, with the beautiful scenery around it, renders it one of the most charming spots in the neighbourhood of Nice.

At a short distance stand the remains of a Roman circus, which is supposed to have once formed the centre of the city of Cemenelon, the capital of the country inhabited by the Védianti, and which was ravaged by the Lombards under their King Alboin. The Saracens destroyed the place, leaving only a few fragments to attest its former importance. The amphitheatre was of an elliptic form, and must have been of considerable extent.

14th.—Last evening, the Comte Andriani had so violent an attack of the gout that apprehensions were entertained for his life; he is, however, relieved from pain to-day, and we have sat with him for an hour. He spoke with such animation of the scenery we have been visiting the last few days, that one of our party remarked, that the constant confinement to which his malady condemned him, must be a severe privation. "So I thought," replied he, "until long habit had reconciled me to it. But the truth is, it is only invalids like myself who know how to appreciate enjoyments. Many sources of gratification, unknown to me in days of health, now console me for its absence. The cessation of pain gives one a pleasure rarely known to those unacquainted with suffering; nay, the very uncertainty of the duration of this reprieve makes it more prized. Books never had such attraction for me as since I have been confined to my room; and the society of the kind persons who cheer my solitude has a zest I never derived from conversation, when I could roam from salon to salon in search of it. The warnings I have had that this shattered frame cannot long resist the attacks of the rude assailant who has undermined it, gives me a tenderness towards my friends that renders their society a source of great gratification: so that after all I am not much to be pitied, although I sometimes suffer acute torture." This is true philosophy; and there was something touching in hearing it from a man whose person presents indelible proofs of the severest physical pain.

We yesterday visited the grotto of St. André, which is about a league from Nice. The road passes through groves of olives, intermixed with orange-trees, and large clumps of carubias, broken by rocks overgrown with aloes, and crowned by pines and cypress-trees. The Château de St. André is built on a steep rock that overlooks the village, the houses of which are placed at its base.

This rock appears like a natural barrier to protect the narrow defile that leads to the grotto. It is covered with large aloes and the cactus, amid which springs of water, clear as crystal, rush from various fissures; falling with a sonorous murmur into a canal, which passes by an aqueduct of a single arch, surmounted by a second arch, which serves as a bridge to cross from one side of the valley to the other. Two waterfalls rush from this aqueduct, and unite themselves to a rapid and transparent stream. The ascent to the château is steep and winding, and impassable for a carriage. The terrace commands a magnificent view, as do the windows, looking down on a valley, bounded at each side by a chain of rocky mountains, from whose sides myrtles spring in luxuriant masses. The mountain pines too, intermixed with groups of cypress and evergreen oaks, are so plentifully scattered around, that the rocks here lose their natural aspect of sterility. Through this valley, the stream formed by the waterfalls before-mentioned winds swiftly along; now sparkling beneath the sunshine, and then lost in the foliage of the clumps of trees that grow near its banks, and showing in the distance like a silvery serpent trailing itself among flowers. The blue Mediterranean terminates the prospect; and renders this one of the most beautiful scenes that the eye ever dwelt on. The château has some good apartments, and might be rendered a delightful residence: its only inhabitants at present are a curé and his elderly housekeeper, who both seemed gratified with our admiration of their abode. The curé had one of those countenances that we see in the pictures of Rembrandt, in which contemplation and benevolence are evident. His manners were simple yet dignified; his language pure, and even elegant. He was the very individual one would have selected for such a dwelling; and his housekeeper, with her neat black gown, snowy cap, kerchief, and apron, looked made to fill her situation. In going over the château we passed through the rooms occupied by the curé. In one was arranged his books, implements for writing and drawing; some plants were on the window-sill, and a hortus siccus in which he had been arranging them, lay open beside them. Two or three volumes of ancient history were on his table, and a large MS., on which he had been busy, stood open; his pen was laid near it, the ink still undried. How I should have liked to have read his lucubrations! He pointed out to us the most remarkable views which the terrace commands, with the taste that denoted a lover of fine scenery; and noticed the antiquities in the environs with all the knowledge of an antiquary. The stipend allotted to this curé is twenty-five napoleons a-year, a sum we should think scarcely adequate to maintain two persons of the most frugal habits; yet, with this scanty income, he seemed perfectly contented.

The grotto is about half a mile from the château; and the approach to it is as difficult as it is picturesque. Here the valley assumes a much wilder and more sublime character. A narrow footpath, for the chief part formed on a wall, barely wide enough to admit of one person's passing, is the only road that leads to the grotto. To the left of this wall is an abrupt and dangerous precipice, at the bottom of which rushes a rapid torrent, that in some places is impelled tumultuously over the rocks, whence its white foam is dashed on high; and in other parts, descending with velocity into deep chasms in the rocky bed of the torrent. On the other side of the precipice rises a stupendous mountain that excludes the view of all but the clouds. On the right of the pathway is a canal cut in a ledge of the rock, over which ascends the chain of mountains that form the other barrier of the valley. Thus a false step might hurl one from the path into the precipice on the left, or into the canal on the right.

The rocky mountains here are nearly covered with myrtles and various other aromatic shrubs and plants, that are indigenous, and grow with a luxuriance I never saw equalled, while large pines and other trees break the uniformity of this mass of underwood. Patches of the bare rock are occasionally seen, with springs of water, clear as crystal, gushing from their fissures, and scattering their sparkling drops over the shrubs, which, as the sun beams on them, look like large emeralds spangled with diamonds.

An aqueduct, about one hundred feet high, spans the precipice and unites the mountains. It consists of two arches, of fine proportions, and a magnificent evergreen oak, that bends gracefully at one side, nearly covers with its branches half of the first arch, and with its dark foliage forms a beautiful contrast to the white stone of which the aqueduct is formed. There is barely room for one person to walk on the aqueduct, which has no parapet or defence of any kind; and on arriving at the centre, it was really appalling to gaze on the fearful abyss that yawned beneath. The rocks near this spot are as white as marble, and in many parts form dangerous chasms, the sight of which adds to the alarm experienced on looking down from the narrow ledge on the aqueduct; an alarm increased by the loud noise of the rushing waters around. Having crossed the aqueduct, we proceeded about five or six hundred feet along a path, no less dangerous or difficult than that already passed, which brought us to the entrance of the grotto that forms the extremity of the valley. This entrance is low, and in the form of a wide arch extending the whole width of the grotto, which is about forty feet wide, sixty in length, and thirty feet in height. From the roof innumerable stalactites are suspended; around which, lichens and capellaires hang in wreaths resembling vines,

but more closely united, and their leaves of a more vivid green, half concealing the glittering crystals round which they cling. The water is precipitated with great force at the remote end of the grotto, where daylight streams in; and all egress, except by the arch entered, is impossible. The beauty of the interior repays the trouble and fatigue of the excursion.

On our return through St. André, we were met by a troop of children, laden with bouquets of flowers, prepared as offerings for the strangers. They were attired in their holiday clothes, and the money we distributed amongst them, although but a few francs, sent them joyfully to their homes, laughing and singing by the way; their cheeks as fresh and rosy as some of the flowers they gave us.

15th. — The Duc de Vallombrosa dined with us yesterday. He speaks in terms of warm eulogy of England, and laments that the extravagance of the charges, not only for the luxuries but the necessities of life, preclude foreigners, who have not the purse of Fortunatus, from residing there. The want of *restaurateurs* or *cafés*, where strangers might find something better than tough beefsteaks and underdone mutton chops, is much felt in London. At some of our best hotels, it is true, very good dinners may be procured; but they must be ordered some hours previously to their being required, and the expense is heavy, *too* heavy, for those who are not rich: whereas, in every foreign capital, a repast may be found ready to be served at a few minutes' notice, and at very moderate prices.

It is gratifying to observe the number of foreigners who can now speak English, and who enjoy our literature. Even Shakspeare, the most difficult of all our great writers to be understood by strangers, is no longer a sealed book, and is appreciated as it deserves to be.

One of the advantages of foreign society is, that literature forms much more the topic of conversation than in England. It serves as a sort of freemasonry that brings people acquainted; who, having no subjects of local interest in common, might feel embarrassed in their first intercourse. Scott has created a bond of union, a sympathy as strong as it is gratifying, between England and the Continent. Every one reads, every one talks of, and every one admires, his works. They furnish an unfailing subject of conversation between French, Italians, and Germans, who all express a sentiment of grateful attachment to an author who has afforded them so many hours of rational amusement. In England, and particularly in London, we have so many topics of local interest, and above all politics engross the mind and conversation so much, that literature is only slightly touched on. The last new novel of Scott's,

like all the former ones, is pronounced to be excellent, and although it occupies the minds of nearly all the reading community during the hours devoted to its perusal, is much less talked of than on the Continent, where stirring subjects more rarely occur to break the associations it awakens. Here the perusal of each new work of this mighty magician, forms an epoch in the lives of his readers; is dwelt on with grateful feelings, and referred to for months after. Scott is indeed justly appreciated in this country, where his works have made him as many friends as readers.

Byron is much in vogue in France, and a lively curiosity exists respecting him. The French regard him as a most mysterious character, in which much of evil and good, the former however preponderating, is mingled. There is no tale too marvellous to gain credence with them, if coupled with his name; nay, I have met persons who believe that "Lara" is founded on an incident in the life of the poet, with little change except the name of the hero. They venerate Scott; they wonder at Byron. One, they desire to enjoy health, to furnish them with many more volumes to charm their leisure hours; of the mental sufferings of the other, they could hear with comparative philosophy, in the anticipation that such excitement may produce some new and graphic picture of the feelings of its author. They are, if a homely comparison may be allowed, like those pseudo-humane persons who reflect with indifference on the tortures of the bird whose increased liver furnishes their delicious *pâtés de foie gras*, provided they can indulge in this dainty.

17th.—Made an excursion yesterday to the Grotto de Falicon. This expedition can only be effected on horseback; and even in that way, offers insurmountable obstacles to a timid rider. It is approached by a mountain track, which presents a succession of wild but beautiful scenery. The grotto is formed in the side of a steep and rocky mountain, and is entered by ladders fixed by the guides. Having descended the first ladder, which rests on a narrow platform, another ladder is found, by which a descent to the floor of the grotto is accomplished. These ladders are far from being in a sound state, several of the steps being held together by cords; but the guides so loudly and frequently assure the timid adventurer that there is no danger, that although he sees a yawning abyss, into which a single false step, or the fracture of one of these frail pieces of wood, would precipitate him, he is induced to venture on, ashamed to betray his fears. How often does this false sense of shame impel us to act contrary to the dictates of our judgment; and how frequently does the opinion of those for whom we entertain little respect influence our decisions! The grotto or cavern is of vast dimensions, divided by huge natural pillars of a conical

shape, which support two arches. Innumerable stalactites hang from the roof, the effect of which is very curious. At one side of the grotto is a chasm of inconsiderable circumference, into which the guide throws a stone, which is heard descending for the space of two minutes. This chasm is said to be unfathomable, but the opening is so small that its appearance is not striking. The grotto itself scarcely repays the risk and trouble of the descent, but the scenery beheld on the route to it is worth being explored.

18th.—Spent last evening with Comte Andriani. His guests all described the sights in the neighbourhood which they had visited. Some gave graphic sketches, but others very faint ones, and admitted that they felt little interested by what they had taken so much trouble to see. “Why go?” asked Comte Andriani. “O, because Monsieur B., or Madame C., was always talking about it.” “*Bonne raison* for not going,” resumed our host. “But then we shall be asked so many questions respecting it.” “Why not do as an English acquaintance of mine once did,” said Andriani; “he went with a party to see a mine, but on being shown the tub in which he was to descend, Heaven knows, how many feet into the bowels of the earth, he declared his intention of remaining where he was, and advised his friends to adopt the same prudent course. ‘But what shall we say to those who know we came to see the mine, and who will ask fifty questions?’ ‘Why, say as I shall, to be sure; that you did see it; that the descent *was* fearful; but that you risked it. You thus save at once the peril, and your reputation.’”

It is incredible how many persons submit to trouble and danger, to witness sights for which they have no taste, and the impression of which a few hours efface; and encounter all this self-punishment and vexation in order that they may acquire the power of saying they saw as much as, or better still, more than, certain individuals of their acquaintance. Comte Andriani mentioned a curious instance of the vanity of some friends of his; who, on hearing of the death of a very clever person with whom they were on terms of intimacy, and who was returning from a long voyage, agreed that their escape from the necessity of listening to the details of places which they never saw, and were not interested about, was no common consolation for his loss. “Also,” continued these dear friends, “poor — would have assumed such an air of superiority over us in boasting of his travels!”

19th.—Went yesterday to see the English cemetery, which might be received as a proof of the salubrity of the climate of Nice, as it does not contain above forty graves. It is about half a mile from the town, is enclosed by a high wall, and has some simple but neat monuments. There is something peculiarly affecting in

beholding the grave of a compatriot in a foreign land. The mind reverts to the poor invalid, who had left his country, in a fruitless search after health, to find his last resting-place far from his native shore. If he had journeyed alone, how many anxious thoughts may he not have sent back to those friends, he was never again to behold; and if he were accompanied by some dear object who had watched every variation of his pale countenance, and felt the bonds of affection press more closely on the heart, as they were about to be rent asunder for ever, how bitter must have been the pangs of both, at the dreaded thought of separation. How often do the anticipations of a lonely journey back to home, that home, near which the dying one will not rest, rush to the memory of both, while each anxious to save the other's feelings, avoids touching on the subjects that fill the hearts of both. There are probably few graves in this simple cemetery that have not been bedewed by the tears of affection; and to which the memory of some tender friend does not often turn, from the distant home, now rendered sad by the loss of the object here interred.

20th.—Heaven defend me from seeing any more grottos, at least any to which the access is so difficult as the one of the Château Neuf; to which, in an evil hour, I was induced to wend my way yesterday. People talked of, and praised it so much, that to get rid of the subject, I consented to form one of a party to the spot. After traversing the first two miles, which passes through olive groves, orange orchards, and gardens glowing with the blossoms of the peach and cherry, the scenery assumes a wild and savage aspect: mountains rising over mountains, some half rent asunder by volcanic action, with foaming cataracts rushing through the wide chasms. A few gigantic pine trees are scattered at intervals; and their twisted forms evince the rude assaults of the winds which they have weathered. The mouth of the grotto is so small that it can only be entered by a person's crawling, not on the hands and knees, but perfectly prostrate; a posture as uneasy as it is unseemly. After having thus dragged one's slow length along for about five minutes, the entrance is achieved; and one is repaid by the first view of the grotto, which is truly surprising. The guides illuminate it before you enter, and the effect is striking. The interior is divided into various compartments, most of them arched and supported by several columns, and having a thousand stalactites of the most grotesque forms, depending from the vaulted roof. It bears a strong similitude to the interior of a gothic church; and many of the huge pillars being fluted, and all the compartments arched, increases the likeness. It takes above an hour to make the circuit of it: but every step is replete with interest, and the effect of the lights and shadows is fine beyond de-

scription. Still I must confess, that the prostrate position by which access is alone to be attained, is so repugnant to my taste, that I should not be disposed to undertake the expedition again, even with an entire knowledge of all the beauty of the scene.

On the brow of a steep and barren mountain above the grotto, stands the Château Neuf, which forms a most picturesque feature in the landscape, which is one worthy the pencil of a Salvator Rosa. The château is much decayed, and is, at present, the residence of a peasant and his family. Not a tree, or a vestige of cultivation marks the vicinity of this desolate spot. A few patches of arid and stunted grass on which some meagre sheep and goats browse, herded by boys as meagre and wild as the animals they guard, add to the sombre aspect of the dreary scene.

The dress of the peasantry around Nice is picturesque; the women wear large straw hats, shaped like cones, which protect the face and neck from the sun; a chemise worked round the breast, a full plaited petticoat of some bright colour, and a bodice fastened by bows of ribbon. The men wear jackets and trousers, with scarlet woollen caps, edged with black.

The route from Nice to Florence, by the Col de Tende, being impracticable owing to the snow, and having a strong objection to a voyage in a felucca, we determined to proceed to Genoa by the route of the Cornice; which admits of but two modes of conveyance, a *chaise-à-porteur*, or on horseback, or rather muleback. To-morrow we set out; and I shall regret nothing, but our amiable acquaintance Comte Andriani, whose health is so precarious as to hold out little hope of our ever meeting him again.

MENTONE, 22nd.—The views presented to us on our route to this place far surpassed our expectations; although they were not a little excited by the descriptions given to us of it. We were enabled to travel in light carriages of the country as far as Mentone; but here we must have recourse to mules, which our courier is now busily examining. The road as far as this town is remarkably good, and bears the indelible mark of *him* who planned it:—boldly designed, and solidly executed, with a disregard of difficulties, or a complete triumph over them, it reminds one of that daring man who said that he disbelieved in impossibilities. The dimensions of the road are on a grand scale:—rocks, valleys, and mountains, seem to have been no impediment to his scheme; the first was perforated, blown, or pulverized; the second spanned by a bold arch; and the third, levelled, to carry his purpose into effect. Yes, Napoleon was the best of modern road makers, and surpassed even the Romans in this respect; for his roads are monuments, as well as admirable means of communication—the sinews of commerce and civilization. After two or three miles,

we passed behind Villa Franca, and the bay broke on us in all its beauty. The *fanal*, or lighthouse, seen from this point has a very fine effect. The road winds along, forming a cornice on the ledge of the rocks, and seldom, and but for short intervals, losing a view of the sea.

An hospital erected on a steep rock, with two other rocks near, but not joined, constitutes a very striking feature in the scenery; and the chain of vast rocks which form the boundary of the sea, which dashes against their base, covering them with foam, has a magnificent effect. The village of La Turbie is the next object that attracts the attention; but before reaching it, a fragment of an ancient building is passed, called the Chapel of St. Catherine. It consists but of a few feet of a wall, covered with paintings illustrative of the life of the saint from whom it takes its name; and which, though ill drawn, are not destitute of grace and expression. The line of road passed direct through this chapel, leaving the fragments we noticed alone standing. The coachman who drove us, pointed to it, shook his head, and, after a moment's silence, remarked, that it was not wonderful that such an act of sacrilege brought a heavy punishment on its perpetrator. "The saints," continued he—and he crossed himself as he spoke—"are not to be insulted with impunity."

One of the most picturesque ruins imaginable crowns La Turbie. We longed to learn something of its history; but those we questioned could give us no information, except that which our eyes conveyed, and which the stupid man stationed at the custom-house pompously repeated,—“That it was a very fine and ancient ruin, well worth the attention of travellers.” This he reiterated with an air of as much self-complacency as if he had given us the most interesting details. This ruin stands on an eminence which commands all those around it, and can be seen from the sea at a great distance; which leads one to believe that it was a *fanal*, or lighthouse. It must have been on a grand scale; and is of Roman workmanship.

Soon after leaving La Turbie we caught a view of the village of Monaco, which stands on a sort of cape, that advances into the sea. At a distance it looks like a town built for children; and its pigmy white houses peeping out from groves of olive, orange, and lemon trees, have a beautiful appearance. The climate becomes still milder as we advance, and the vegetation proves its warmth, being far more advanced than at Nice, and infinitely more luxuriant in its growth. The arbutus and carubia flourish here, and mingled with the olive, orange, and lemon trees, clothe the very rocks with their verdure, which lift their heads through the rich foliage that surrounds them. Terraces surmounting terraces are

by the industry of the peasants brought into cultivation; soil is conveyed to these terraces, which are formed on the ledges of rocks; and, aided by the fertility of the clime, they yield an abundant harvest. At each step some new and attractive view fills the traveller with admiration, and begets the desire of fixing on some one of the various beautiful sites for a residence; where "the world forgetting, by the world forgot," existence might glide tranquilly and sweetly away. Numberless pretty fountains are erected on the route, and tasteful and well-constructed bridges span the ravines.

We passed near to a village named Roque Brune, built in the midst of a pile of rocks, with which the houses are so mingled that they appear one mass; except where, as in many instances, the rocks are covered with plants and aloes, which produce the most picturesque effect.

We arrived at Mentone, delighted with our first day's journey, which, for beauty of scenery, is unrivalled. The abundance, and luxuriant growth of the trees, the genial warmth of the climate, the magnificent views, and the blue Mediterranean, render the route of the Cornice the one that all who love nature must prefer. Near the entrance to Mentone stands the château Monaco, which was nearly dilapidated in the revolution. The new road of the Cornice passes through the court-yard of this château, where, as our guide told us, the grand *manège* once stood, entirely doing away with its privacy. A fine collection of pictures and statues once ornamented this abode; but they were mutilated, or totally destroyed. Even the gardens, which were rich in rare plants and shrubs, were devastated, and nothing left to indicate their former beauty, but the orange and lemon trees, which flourish so abundantly here. The Prince of Monaco has commenced repairing the house; and, with a true foreign taste, has begun by regilding the ceilings, and cornices of the apartments, before the essential repairs have been accomplished. The basins, which formerly supplied the water-works which were wont to be displayed on fête-days for the amusement of the rustic neighbours, are now overgrown with rank weeds, and filled with frogs; whose croaking notes are heard at a considerable distance, and add to the gloomy feelings which the sight of this ruined abode is so calculated to engender. Revolutions may always be traced by the ruin and devastation they leave behind. How many residences, once splendid, and filled with works of art, are to be seen in France, in a state of utter ruin! How many hills, once covered by woods, are now bare and desolate! The entire face of vast districts is wholly disfigured by the reckless hordes who, emancipated by the revolution, spread their work of destruction far and wide. It

is only in dear, happy England, that we escape such sights ; and thankful should we be for the blessed exemption !

Mentone is a town of considerable extent ; its quay is large, but has more the appearance of an esplanade, than of a structure intended for the purposes to which it is devoted. The houses that occupy one side of it are composed of stone, and are seven and eight stories high. Above these rise others built on the rocky eminence which forms the centre of the town ; and the cathedral, with two or three other churches, painted in rich and varied colours, crown the whole. Among the churches are scattered high palm trees, whose picturesque forms and dark foliage come out in bold relief against the cloudless sky, and give the picture a morresque and striking character. The view from the cathedral is magnificent both of land and sea ; but I turned from the former, with all its rich and diversified hues, to behold the beautiful Mediterranean, blue as the heavens that canopy it, and dotted with white sails, which, in the distance, look like birds cleaving the air. We ascended to the topmost towers of the cathedral, our *cicerone* having, and with reason, vaunted the view it commands ; but he did *not* inform us, that this tower was the belfry, and that the hour for tolling the enormous bell, was fast approaching. We were descending the spiral staircase, delighted with the prospect we had beheld, when this terrible bell was put in motion. Never shall I forget its effect ! The senses were stunned, and the power of hearing seemed a malediction ! The tower rocked to each movement of its heavy and noisy guest, and vibrated to the deafening peals it sent forth ; while we felt overpowered by the tremendous clamour, and rendered giddy by the movement of the building, of which each fresh peal made us acutely sensible. Our *cicerone* seemed totally regardless of what occasioned us so much annoyance ; and merely shrugged his shoulders when he perceived that we bore it less patiently than he did.

The ruins of the château Cupouana form a very picturesque feature in the view of Mentone. Placed on an eminence, it commands a prospect of the town, its environs, and the sea. It is so ancient that its construction has been attributed to the Romans. It has been purchased for a cemetery, and one part is appropriated to the remains of a number of persons, soldiers and others who were killed during the revolution. This pile of bones lies exposed to the elements ; and serves as playthings to the children who frequent the spot. Some of the skulls, bleached perfectly white, had coloured rags twisted fantastically around them, which added not a little to their revolting appearance. Groups of rosy-cheeked urchins were employed in twining wreaths of ivy and shreds of coloured cloth on many of the skulls, while we paused

to look on them. Infancy thus playing with death in its grimmest shape, offered a curious object; and one that a German painter would have liked to portray.

On returning to the inn we met a religious procession conveying the Sacrament to a dying person. Some twenty little boys carrying lanterns, although the sun was brilliantly shining, preceded the priest and his attendants; whose grave and melancholy countenances were contrasted by the careless gaiety of those of the children, who appeared pleased with their burthens and the permission of forming a part of the procession. To see this train hurrying along, the rapidity of their pace indicating the danger of the person to whose relief they were proceeding, while nature seemed bursting into luxuriance beneath the radiance of a spring day, in an Italian clime, the trees covered with blossoms, the birds sending forth their notes of joy, and the sky and sea, blue and tranquil as an azure mirror, suggested many sad and painful thoughts. Yes, in the midst of this reanimation of nature, when the earth and sky seemed glad, a poor fellow mortal is about to close his eyes for ever! This glowing scenery, on which he has perhaps dwelt with pleasure, he will never again behold, and those blossoms that give such promise of fruit, long, long before they have faded, he will have passed away. On looking at the beautiful scenery around me, and reflecting on the dying person, I was reminded of the charming and affecting picture of a landscape in Arcadia by Nicholas Poussin, in which is a simple tomb, near to which stand two shepherds reading an inscription that appeals so much to the feelings, "I too, was an Arcadian."

The number of chapels on the road is really surprising. There is scarcely a mile that does not present one, or a niche, with a picture, or small statue of a saint, or a crucifix. Even the gates to fields and gardens have each a niche on the top containing the image of some saint; and every bridge has a small chapel, or recess formed for the same purpose. The chapels on the road side generally consist of one small chamber, open to the road, or only inclosed by a latticed door; they contain an altar, over which is placed a picture or image, and the altar is covered with flowers, the humble offerings of the simple and pious neighbours.

Our inn here, the Hôtel de Turin, although scrupulously clean, is in a state of primitive simplicity, worthy of the patriarchal times, but little in accordance with ours. An amusing proof of this was given when our courier asked for a tea-pot; for our good hostess looked confounded; and when he began to explain the kind of utensil he required, she stopped him, by declaring with an air of no little pride, that she knew well enough what he meant; for that the good Lady Bute had made her a present of one, which all the

English who stopped at the Hôtel de Turin had admired; but which in an evil hour had been broken by having been placed on the fire to boil water. "Ah! Signor, I was so proud of it, for there never was such a thing at Mentone before or since; but accidents will happen."

At Mentone the costume of the women is pretty and becoming. The young wear their hair simply braided, with bunches of natural flowers placed over one of the ears; the children's heads are arranged in the same manner, and they look like those in a picture of Watteau. The women of a more advanced age, wear handkerchiefs of the brightest colours twisted round their heads, like turbans, or nets of a dark hue. This is really the first place in which our canteen would have been necessary; but it has been shipped with the carriages, as we were assured that on the route to Nice we should have no occasion for it. *Mem.* Never believe what people tell me about roads or inns, but always provide myself with every portable aid to comfort, and protection against possible disasters.—I slept here for the first time on a mattress filled with the straw of Indian corn. They use no other in this simple place, and I reposed as well on it as on the most luxurious couch. The mattress consists of a sack of clean coarse material, open at one end, into which a sufficient quantity of straw is put to fill it, and fresh straw is put in for each new guest. How an English housemaid would wonder to see a fine lady content with such a bed! but they who travel on mules over mountains and moors must not be particular.

On the left of the road to Ventimiglia, on the summit of a high rock, is a château, called Castel Dacio; also a tower, and a building, which looks as if designed for an observatory. Such objects, interspersed among high promontories, steep rocks, and fine trees, have a beautiful effect; and being situated so near the sea, look still more picturesque. Quantities of petrified shells are seen where the rocks have been cut; and, as the sun shines on them, they present a variety of rich hues. On arriving near to Ventimiglia, a fortress is discovered on an eminence to the left. It is well situated as a protection for the town, which, however, requires no other defence than the steep rocks with which it is surrounded.

VENTIMIGLIA, 26th.—About six miles from Mentone, on the road to this place, is the Bridge of St. Louis, built across a ravine, on rocks; whose height is from three hundred and fifty to four hundred feet high. It consists of a single arch, of an immense span, and of so admirable a construction, that it emulates the works of the Romans. The water falls in cascades into the ravine beneath; over which an aqueduct is constructed, which adds much to the beautiful effect of the bridge. A large and curious grotto,

or gallery, is cut in the rocks near the bridge; but we had only time to look at it *en passant*. The Pont de St. Louis and the aqueduct were constructed by the command of Napoleon, and will serve as a durable monument of his hardy and enterprising mind. Travellers in France and Italy will often find occasion to recall his memory with gratitude; for he has rendered many a journey easy and agreeable, which, without his aid, would have been a toilsome and dangerous pilgrimage. It is to be hoped that the King of Sardinia will complete the road so admirably commenced by Napoleon. But should he determine to undertake this most useful task, many years must elapse before it can be accomplished, as works are but slowly carried on here; some eight or ten labourers being employed where one hundred ought to be.

At Ventimiglia the women commence wearing the style of head-dress which prevails through this part of the country; namely, a large scarf of flowered chintz, with a rich border, in which the brightest colours are introduced. This is placed across the head, and covers the shoulders and bosom. Its effect is very becoming. We were overtaken on the route by Mr. H. F. and his travelling companion Mr. W., who are also proceeding to Genoa. The former is lively, and *très spirituel, mais un peu espiègle*. He abounds in anecdotes; some a little malicious, but all amusing and well told. The inn here is extremely bad, in all respects, except not being unclean: indeed, we have been agreeably surprised wherever we have stopped, even for an hour to refresh our mules, at observing the perfect attention paid to cleanliness. The furniture in all the inns is of the simplest and most ordinary kind; but nowhere have we seen aught approaching to the untidiness and dirt we had so much reason to complain of in France, where the beds alone seem to be attended to.

We walked out this evening on the beach, and seeing a church open, on the very edge of the sea, we entered it. It was lighted by a single lamp, which cast a dim light around, and showed us several women veiled, and kneeling; many of them half concealed by the deep shadows thrown by the columns and the flickering of the lamp. No priest officiated at the altar, and a solemn silence prevailed, interrupted only by the breaking of the waves against the shore, or the murmur of the whispered prayers and sighs of the women. The place, the hour, and the deep abstraction of the congregation, rendered this one of the most touching scenes of religious worship I ever witnessed, or ever participated. So fervent and so wholly engrossing was the devotion of the women, that they never noticed our entrance; and it was not until they arose to depart that they became sensible of our presence. Soon after our return to the inn, some six or eight of them brought us

bouquets of flowers, which were offered with a grace peculiar to the peasants of this country.

The custom that prevails all over the Continent, of leaving the churches open during the day and evening, is one of the few religious usages that I should like to see adopted in England, as I am persuaded it would be attended with a beneficial effect. How frequently, when harassed by the cares and annoyances of life, from which not even the most fortunate are exempt, might our thoughts be turned to another channel, and our minds be tranquillized, by resorting to a temple sacred to the Divinity: a place that shuts out the poignant sense of present misfortunes, to which we are so prone to succumb, by lifting our aspirations to a Sphere, where the mourner ceases to sorrow, and the weary are at rest. How can we be engrossed by selfish cares, when we enter a temple consecrated to Him, who came on earth to teach us how we ought to suffer? a temple, venerable from having been the asylum where many an oppressed heart has sought relief by an unchecked and pious avowal of all its secret sorrows at the throne of a merciful and heavenly Judge, in the humble yet confiding hope of alleviation from that source whence alone it can be obtained. Generations and generations have passed away, of individuals bowed down by sorrows, heavier perchance than those which we have to bear, who perhaps on the spot where we now kneel have implored the mercy of the Almighty. How trivial appear our troubles, when we reflect on the inevitable and rapid flight of time, and think that in a short period we too shall have passed away, like those who preceded us; and others, occupied by the same pursuits, and wearied by the same cares, will take our places. Life at such moments seems but as a fast fleeting dream, and eternity is the only unchanging, enduring reality. We are, alas! but too prone to forget this knowledge; and to permit ourselves to be all engrossed by the pains or pleasures of this world, so that we require to be reminded of another, by having the house of God continually open to us.

ONEGLIA, 27th.—The route between Ventimiglia and this place is quite as picturesque and beautiful as between the former and Mentone. We noticed several groves of palm trees, high, and of luxuriant growth, and which growing near the sea, gave the picture an oriental aspect; but the palm is, in my opinion, seen to most advantage when standing apart, or mingled with other trees of a different species.

There cannot be a more agreeable mode of travelling than on mules; their pace, which is an amble, a movement between a quick walk and a trot, is not fatiguing; and the animals are so sure footed that they seldom make a false step, even on the worst roads.

Our party consists of thirteen persons, and to these two muleteers are allotted, whose duty it is to whip on the mules, and to lead them over any parts of the road that are considered dangerous. It is distressing to see these poor men trotting along, covered with dust, and half dissolved beneath the rays of the sun, which is really scorching, although we are only at the end of March. The civility, alacrity, and good humour of these hardy mountaineers, is not to be surpassed; and I never heard a complaint of fatigue escape their lips. The saddles on which women ride here, resemble the pillions used in Ireland, except that they have backs and sides formed of leather, and stuffed with hair. The rider sits sideways, with her feet supported by a band, which is suspended like a stirrup. This mode of riding a long journey is much less fatiguing than on an English side-saddle, though the appearance, particularly *au galop*, is much less graceful.

The route sometimes diverges from the seaside, and passes through ravines, thickly wooded, over a turf, which, when pressed by the feet of the mules, exhales the most delicious odour of the wild thyme, and various other aromatic herbs that grow so abundantly here. But the sea is seldom lost sight of for more than fifteen or sixteen minutes, and the return to it always gives pleasure. Until I saw the Mediterranean I had no notion that a sea could be other than a *sublime* object; this is a *beautiful* one; and its blue and placid loveliness might encourage the first mariner who ever launched his fragile bark, to trust its tempting surface.

The route, if route it can be called, for in many places it is but a wild track, often passes over the ledge of rocks hundreds of feet above the sea, which is on the right of it; while the rocks themselves rise so high above the track to the left, that nothing but the heavens and the azure mirror that reflects them, is visible. The heat, during the time occupied in traversing such parts of the route, is very great; for the high barrier of rocks that towers above it, intercepts the air, and reflects the rays of the sun like a burning-glass. The very sea seems heated, as if the sun had cast on it some portion of its glowing warmth. The track often descends to the sandy beach, on which a very narrow portion is left uncovered by the briny element, that bathes the feet of the mules, two only of which can pass abreast on the sand. On traversing just such a spot as this described, to-day, a human skull was thrown between my mule's feet, by the waves. The place where this incident occurred was peculiarly wild and picturesque, and well accorded with the reflections which this poor wreck of mortality was so calculated to excite. A range of rocks rose to a stupendous height on the left, excluding the view of every object but the sky; while to the right, the sea was spread out, leaving only a space of sand

uncovered at the base of the rocks, sufficient to admit one mule to pass at a time. When the skull was thrown between the feet of my mule, it snorted, started, and nearly unseated me; and I confess I was nearly as much startled by the sombre apparition as the animal I rode. How many fanciful conjectures presented themselves to my mind relative to the being to whom this skull had belonged! The most probable seemed that the individual had fallen a victim to some storm, and that the action of the ocean and its inhabitants had dismembered and decapitated the trunk. And this poor empty case, which now retains only the form of humanity, a casket rifled of all that made its worth, has been cared for, fondly loved, and tenderly pillowed on a mother's breast: a wife's too, perchance has sustained it, who little dreamed that countless waves would sweep over it, and that monsters of the sea would banquet on it! What sharp agony may have shot through the brain it once contained, on seeing the approach of a death from which there was no hope of escape! The eye balls, that once filled these empty sockets, had glared in the fearful throes of nature, shrinking from the presence of the king of terrors, and glanced in wild despair from the boiling, hissing surges that every instant threatened destruction, up to the frowning skies, that lowered as if in anger at the wretched mortals exposed to the fury of the elements beneath. How many thoughts of loved objects, never again to be beheld, rush into the mind at such an hour. The *past* is all crowded into the memory with a vividness that renders the present more appalling; and the prayers, rather shrieked, than uttered, are wrung from the heart by the extremity of mortal agony and despair. Vainly, ah! how vainly has the return of this poor sufferer been expected and desired! Far from home, the victim's remains are scattered o'er the deep: and remote shores receive a portion of that frame which never can be gathered to its native earth. Little thought the fond mother, who had watched the infancy of this luckless being, that a creature so loved would become the prey of the devouring deep; and that the limbs which had been kissed with all a mother's tenderness, would one day be rudely torn asunder, and driven, by relentless waves, to different lands. An all-wise Providence, knowing our weakness, has mercifully shut the book of fate from our sight; for who could bear to look forward, and see in dread array the ills we are doomed to undergo!

The number of towns scattered along the coast, add much to the beauty of the scenery; their sites are generally on some eminence, commanding a prospect of the sea; and the whiteness of the stone, and the open colonnades of many of the houses, have a very fine effect. About a mile from Oneglia stands Port Maurice,

which seems a flourishing place. On a high rock that overhangs the ocean, and with a long colonnade in front, a very handsome church has just been completed. Towns or villages of considerable size are to be met at every six or seven miles along this route; but they have no inns where a traveller could remain for a night, although small albergas afford the means of refreshment for the mules and muleteers.

NOLI, 29th. — Left Oneglia at seven o'clock yesterday morning, and arrived at Finalé at half-past five. It is a place of considerable extent, and beautifully situated. On entering, we met processions of white, red, and grey penitents; for this being passion week, religious ceremonies and duties occupy all the monastic orders. A hood covers the head, with holes cut through it for the eyes; and the monks thus habited present a very extraordinary appearance. The rooms at Finalé were so untempting, that we determined to proceed on our route, and commanded our dinner to be served on a large balcony of the inn, overhanging the sea. Dining in the open air at half-past five on the 27th of March! How incredible this would appear in England! and yet it is the simple truth. Although the dinner was not the most *recherché*, a long journey on our mules had given us appetites to enjoy it; and the view from the spot where we partook of it added to the pleasure of the repast. We beheld the sun sink into his ocean bed, while the waves were tinged with his last rays. Our host, who attended us at dinner, spoke so much in praise of the church of his native town, and seemed so desirous that we should see it, that *malgré* we had no great curiosity, and that the shadows of night had already descended, we yielded to his entreaties. The church was partially illuminated, which enabled us to perceive that its pillars and altars were of the richest marbles, and painting and gilding had not been spared in its decoration. There is, to say the truth, too much decoration in foreign churches, where the glare and glitter remind one more of a place dedicated to theatrical exhibitions than to the most solemn and important of all duties—prayer.

We left Finalé late in the evening, and proceeded to Noli, where our courier had preceded us, to make the necessary preparations for our passing the night. We traversed a route presenting equally beautiful and romantic scenery to that which we had previously passed, and which, beheld by moonlight, lost none of its charms. Never had I seen this lustrous orb rise with such splendour. It seemed to ascend from the ocean, and when only half revealed, the effect was indescribably beautiful. But when arisen above its glassy surface; which was silvered all over with her beams, making the sea, as far as the eye could reach, appear one

vast sheet of molten silver, and casting a broad mellow light on the rocks and masses of wood, the scene was magical; and rendered perfectly intelligible to me the Italian ambassador's declaration, that the moon in his favoured land was brighter than the sun in ours. How different was the glorious luminary that shed a radiance over our path, and whose beams infused a genial warmth through the atmosphere, to the cold pale orb we behold in our chilly climate, when not even warm cloaks can prevent our feeling the freezing blast, if we venture to brave the night air in March!

The variation in the scenery of the route along the Cornice is as striking as it is beautiful. In some parts the rich and fertile landscape is exchanged for one in which nought but the sea, the sands, and the lofty rocks that rise as a barrier to defend the land from its approach, are visible. These rocks are in many places above six hundred feet high; their colour is of a deep red, mixed with black and light grey, and their *ensemble* looked magnificent by moonlight. No herbage or trees are to be seen for two or three miles to break the sublime grandeur of the scene; but a few wild aloes, that grow prodigiously high, spring among the clefts of the rocks, and add much to the picturesque effect. No sound is heard in these deserted parts of the route, save the murmur of the waves, as they break upon the shore, and the echo of the footsteps of the mules. I observed that not only our party, but the muleteers also, became silent as we traversed these solitary places. Their wild sublimity checked the cheerful loquacity, in which at other times they were prone to indulge, and they, like us, seemed to feel the influence of the scenery.

Between Finalé and Varigotte we passed through a grotto or tunnel, formed by piercing a huge rock that protruded on the line of the road. It is of considerable height, and wide enough to admit of three or four horses travelling abreast. Farther on we traversed two other grottos, one about twenty feet in length, and the other above three hundred. This last is an admirable proof of what may be achieved by the perseverance and industry of man, who has conquered what must have appeared an insurmountable obstacle to the formation of this route. On entering this grotto, we observed the light which was admitted by the other entrance, and which, seen at the distance, looked round and bright as the moon. When arrived at the middle of the grotto, we were nearly in obscurity; and there was something *Radcliffish* in the darkness and shadowy appearance of our party, the echo of whose voices sounded very sepulchral as they reverberated beneath the arched roof. Many of the chains of rocks that bound the coast of the Mediterranean, between Finalé and Noli, are of stupendous height;

some large chasms on them resembling immense portals and windows; while the road, which is formed on a ledge, appears like a balcony overhanging the sea. Seen by moonlight, they give the idea of some gigantic palace, the residence of the genii of the place.

Noli is about a mile from the last and largest of the grottos, and is a long straggling village built on the beach, immediately fronting the sea. The inn was crowded with guests, who were occupied in supping, singing, and smoking, and was redolent of the mingled odours of garlic, tobacco, and fried fish. At one table a party were devouring macaroni in a similar manner to that in which an Indian juggler swallows steel; and at another were seated half a dozen persons partaking the contents of a large earthen bowl, the savoury steams of which proclaimed that garlic was one of its principal ingredients. Various small circles were celebrating their bacchanalian orgies round separate tables, and sang, or more properly speaking, roared a sort of wild chaunt, compensating by animation and noise for the great deficiency of harmony; while the smokers sent forth blue curly exhalations, that partly veiled them from sight. Our passage through the chambers occupied by these groups, although far from being agreeable to us, did not at all disturb them: indeed, they seemed not to notice our presence. We found the noise and effluvia of the house so overpowering, that we were, although fatigued, glad to exchange it for a walk on the shore; where we encountered a numerous procession of monks of the order of White Penitents, followed by nuns and others, amounting to above two hundred, bearing huge wax candles lighted, and carrying large crucifixes, and various other symbols of their religion. They walked two by two, chaunting psalms; and as they slowly moved along, their white robes floating in the air, the lights gleaming, and their voices swelling on the breeze, while the murmuring waves rolled gently forward as if to meet them, and broke in snowy wreaths at their feet, I thought I had seldom beheld a more interesting scene.

VOLTRI, 30th.—From Noli we proceeded this morning to Spotorno, Vado, Genolla, and Savona, and arrived at this place to a late dinner. We have been to see the cathedral, which is a very fine one, and as richly decorated as paintings and gilding can make it. The inn, too, is better than those we have lately encountered; and the aspect of the country, though equally beautiful, is less wild, owing to being much more thickly inhabited. Here, we are to take leave of our mules, and proceed to Genoa in coaches of the country. I shall abandon the seditious-footed and patient animals with regret; for a more agreeable mode of traversing a fine country cannot be devised; and it is but justice to them to state, that the *obstinacy*

imputed to them is, in my opinion, either a slander, or at least, a gross exaggeration; for, in the experience of six days, we have not witnessed a single symptom of it.

We passed many fortifications erected on the rocks and coast, between Noli and this place, which add much to the picturesque effect of the scenery. Desirous as I am to see "Genoa the Superb," with its street of palaces, and the treasures of art they contain, I confess that its being the residence of Lord Byron gives it a still greater attraction for me. His works have excited such a lively interest in my mind, and the stories related of him have so much increased it, that I look forward to making his acquaintance with impatience. Should he decline seeing us, as he has done to many of his acquaintances, it will be a great disappointment to me; but I will not anticipate such an annoyance. I long to compare him with the *beau idéal* I have formed in my mind's eye, and to judge how far the descriptions given of him are correct.

GENOA, 31st.—The first view of Genoa from the Voltri road is charming. It looks like a fairy city of white marble rising out of the sea, the blue waters of which are only one shade deeper than the cerulean sky with which at a distance they seem to mingle. The approach from Voltri is very fine, presenting palaces with their gardens at each side of the road; and the walls for the most part being painted with landscapes and figures, which though gaudy, have a gay effect. It was night when we entered this place; and the lamps and lights in each house were reflected in the water with an effulgence that looked magical. We arrived in time to witness a grand procession passing through the streets to the principal church. Innumerable dignitaries of the church in rich dresses, attended by priests, monks, and youths, robed in white, each carrying an immense wax-light, were followed by a number of priests bearing the symbols of their religion. In the centre of the procession was a gilded litter; and on it was placed two figures of the size of life, representing a dead Christ supported in the arms of the Virgin. The litter was covered with flowers, and rich ornaments, and the Virgin was dressed in cloth of gold, the head, neck, and arms covered by a profusion of pearl beads and trinkets. The ghastly image of the Saviour, smeared with blood, and covered with thorns, formed a fearful contrast with the rich habiliments of the Virgin, and the glowing tints of the flowers; while the embroidered vestments of the priests, and the white robes of their followers, were illumined by the blaze of the countless number of wax-lights that surrounded them. Two regiments, in their best uniforms, attended the procession, which moved along with a choral swell of sacred music, the whole scene

having more the character of a triumphal entry than a solemn religious ceremony.

Our inn, the *Albergo del la Villa*, appears like a palace, after those to which we have lately been accustomed. Painted walls and ceilings, abundance of gilding, lofty and spacious rooms, and marble balconies, meet my eyes at every side; and when I approach the window, I see the sea in front of it reflecting a thousand lights from the shore. Our old acquaintance, Lord William Russell, is, I find, in this hotel; and has sent to say that he wishes to see us, as he leaves Genoa early to-morrow. I am *en robe de chambre*, having just come out of my bath, consequently cannot receive his proposed visit; but Lord Blessington has gone to him. I regret not being able to avail myself of this opportunity, for he is very agreeable and intelligent; and it is pleasant to meet London acquaintances of his stamp, so far from home.

And am I indeed in the same town with Byron! and to-morrow I may, perhaps, behold him! I never before felt the same impatient longing to see any one known to me only by his works. I hope he may not be fat, as Moore described him to be at Venice; for a *fat poet* is an anomaly in my opinion. Well, well, to-morrow I may know what he is like: and now, to bed, to sleep away the fatigues of my journey.

April 1st.—I have seen Lord Byron; and am disappointed! But so it ever is, when we have heard exaggerated accounts of a person; or when, worse still, we have formed a *beau idéal* of him. Yet most people would be more than satisfied with Byron's appearance, and captivated by his manner; for the first is highly prepossessing, and the second is graceful, animated, and cordial. Why then has he disappointed my expectations? and why is it, that on thinking of those portions of his writings that have most delighted me, I cannot figure the man I have seen as their author. No, the sublime passages in "*Childe Harold*," and "*Manfred*," cannot be associated in my mind, with the lively, brilliant conversationist that I this day saw. They still belong, in my fancy, to the more grave and dignified individual, that I had conceived their author to have been; an individual resembling Phillips' portrait of Byron, but paler and more thoughtful. I can imagine the man I saw, as the author of "*Beppo*" and "*Don Juan*." He is witty, sarcastic, and lively enough for these works; but he does not look like my preconceived notion of the melancholy poet. Well, I never will again allow myself to form an ideal of any person I desire to see; for disappointment never fails to ensue. And yet there are moments when Byron's countenance is "*shadowed o'er with the pale cast of thought*," and at such moments, his head might well serve as a model for a sculptor or painter's ideal of a poet; but in

an instant, an arch smile replaces the pensive character of his countenance, and some observation, half fun and half malice, chases the sombre and more respectful feelings, which were beginning to exist for him. His head is peculiarly well shaped, the forehead high, open, and highly indicative of intellectual power; his eyes are grey and expressive, one is visibly larger than the other: the nose looks handsome in profile, but in front is somewhat clumsy; the eyebrows are well-defined and flexible; and the mouth is faultless, the upper lip being of Grecian shortness, and both as finely chiselled, to use an artist's phrase, as those of an antique statue. There is a scornful expression in the latter feature that does not deteriorate from its beauty, and which is not assumed, as many people have supposed, but is caused by the peculiarity of its formation. His chin is large but well-shaped, and not at all fleshy, and finishes well his face, which is of an oval form. His hair has already much of silver among its dark brown curls; its texture is very silky, and although it retreats from his temples, leaving his forehead very bare, its growth at the sides and back of his head is abundant. I have seldom seen finer teeth than Lord Byron's, and never a smoother or more fair skin, for though very pale, his is not the pallor of ill health, but the fairness peculiar to persons of thoughtful dispositions. He is so exceedingly thin, that his figure has an almost boyish air; and yet there is something so striking in his whole appearance, that could not be mistaken for an ordinary person. This description is perfectly exact, and would convey the impression of more than usual personal attractions; which Lord Byron may certainly claim; and yet his appearance has, nevertheless, fallen short of my expectations. I do not think that I should have observed his lameness, had my attention not been called to it by his own visible consciousness of this infirmity—a consciousness that gives a *gaucherie* to his movements: yet, even now, I am not aware which foot is the deformed one. His are the smallest male hands I ever saw; finely shaped, delicately white, and the nails, *couleur de rose*, showing pearly half moons at the bottom, and so polished that they resemble those delicate pink shells we find on the sea-coast. He owes less than any one of my acquaintance to his toilet, for his clothes are calculated to disfigure, rather than to adorn him, being old fashioned, and fitting ill. His voice and accent are particularly clear and harmonious, but somewhat effeminate; and his enunciation is so distinct that, though his general tone in speaking is low, not a word is lost. His laugh is musical, but he rarely indulged in it during our interview; and when he did, it was quickly followed by a graver aspect, as if he liked not this exhibition of hilarity. Were I asked to point out the prominent defect of Byron's man-

ner, I should pronounce it to be a flippancy incompatible with the notion we attach to the author of *Childe Harold* and *Manfred*; and a want of the self-possession and dignity that ought to characterise a man of birth and genius. Notwithstanding this defect, his manners are very fascinating—more so, perhaps, than if they were dignified; but he is too gay, too flippant for a poet.

When we arrived at the gate of the court-yard of the Casa Salluggo, in the village of Albano, where he resides, Lord Blessington and a gentleman of our party left the carriage and sent in their names. They were admitted immediately, and experienced a very cordial reception from Lord Byron, who expressed himself delighted to see his old acquaintance. Lord Byron requested to be presented to me; which led to Lord Blessington's avowing that I was in the carriage at the gate, with my sister. Byron immediately hurried out into the court, and I, who heard the sound of steps, looked through the gate, and beheld him approaching quickly towards the carriage without his hat, and considerably in advance of the other two gentlemen. "You must have thought me quite as ill bred and *sauvage* as some reports," said Byron, bowing very low, "in having permitted your ladyship to remain a quarter of an hour at my gate: but my old friend Lord Blessington is to blame, for I only heard a minute ago that it was so highly honoured. I shall think you do not pardon this apparent rudeness; unless you enter my abode—which I entreat you will do;" and he offered his hand to assist me to descend from the carriage. In the vestibule stood his *chasseur*, in full uniform, with two or three other domestics: and the expression of surprise visible in their countenances evinced that they were not habituated to see their lord display so much cordiality to visitors (1).

Our visit was a long one; for when we proposed abridging it, he so warmly urged our stay, and had so many questions to ask about old acquaintances and haunts, that the time passed rapidly. His memory is one of the most retentive I ever encountered; for he does not forget even trifling occurrences, or persons to whom, I believe, he feels a perfect indifference. He expressed warmly, at our departure, the pleasure which our visit had afforded him—and I doubt not his sincerity: not that I would arrogate any merit in us, to account for his satisfaction: but simply because I can perceive that he likes hearing news of his old haunts and associates, and likes also to pass them *en revue*, pronouncing, *en passant*, opinions, in which witty and sly sarcasm are more obvious than good nature. Yet he does not give me the impression that he is ill-

(1) As the *Conversations with Lord Byron* have been published, the reader is referred to them.

natured or malicious; even while uttering remarks that imply the presence of these qualities. It appears to me that they proceed from a reckless levity of disposition, that renders him incapable of checking the *spirituel* but sarcastic sallies which the possession of a very uncommon degree of shrewdness, and a still more rare wit, occasions; and seeing how he amuses his hearers, he cannot resist the temptation, although at the expense of many whom he professes to like. We are to see him to-morrow at our hotel; for he has asked at what hour we would admit him.

Nothing could be more beautiful than the position of Genoa, were it not for one blemish; but even this, at a distance, adds to the beauty of the general effect. I refer to the near vicinity of the bold and bleak range of the Apennines, that form its back-ground. When beheld from a distance, the city, which is built on an amphitheatre, with the fine bay bathing its foundations, looks as if placed on an island between two seas; the mountains behind it being as blue as the Mediterranean in front, and both mingling, as it were, with the horizon. The white buildings rising one above the other between these vast masses of blue, have a beautiful effect, until viewed on the spot; when the contrast offered by the splendid palaces and the bleak sterile mountains, at whose base they rear their heads, is violent and disagreeable; the one offering a view of nature in her roughest, wildest form, and the others presenting specimens of all the refinements and graces of wealth and art. On looking at the Apennines from the ramparts to-day, I was reminded of the truth of Campbell's lines in the "Pleasures of Hope:"—

"Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue."

For this chain of mountains, so "beautifully blue" in the distance, are, when seen near, of a cold greyish tint, and have a cheerless and frowning aspect. It is not mountains alone to which distance lends charms, it gives a halo to anticipated happiness, that reality dissolves; gilds the visions of hope, and disarms grief of its stings; subduing the memory of sorrow to a pensive, but not unpleasing recollection.

We passed through the three principal streets of Genoa to-day—indeed the only ones that merit attention—named Rue de Balbi, Nuova, and Nuovissima. The Strada Nuova is lined by magnificent palaces, but its extent does not accord with the splendour of the buildings that occupy it; and which, if placed in another situation, would appear to much greater advantage. Madame de Staël observed that this street looked as if built for a congress of kings; but to me, it gives more the idea of a collection of edifices heaped together for sale, in the same incongruous manner in which,

in a fashionable auction-room in London, I have seen the most sumptuous pieces of furniture piled one against the other, and preventing, by their proximity, the possibility of any one of them being viewed with the attention they merited. I wished for the hand of a magician to transport these fine palaces to suitable sites, where, not elbowed by each other, they might challenge admiration. All that in England are reserved for the interior decoration of our finest residences, are here lavished on the exterior, with a profusion that bespeaks the unbounded wealth of their founders. Marble columns, rich friezes, balustrades, statues, fountains, arcades, and galleries, all formed of the same costly materials, strike the eye; mingled with terraced gardens, in which bloom the orange, myrtle, and oleander, with a luxuriance unknown even in the conservatories of our cold clime. Groups of women passing and repassing, in their picturesque attire, their mazers floating gracefully from their heads, and wearing their rich ornaments of gold and silver filagree, are contrasted by numbers of priests in their black cloaks, and ancient shepherd hats; monks in white and brown robes and sandaled feet, and soldiers in their gay uniforms: giving the streets that fantastic character seen only on the Continent, and which, from its novelty, is very attractive to me. The mazo is universally adopted by all classes of women at Genoa: the upper class are distinguished by the fineness of the texture and delicacy of the embroidery of theirs; but those of *la bourgeoisie*, if less costly, are worn with as much grace, and the same spirit of coquetry in the use of this pretty article of dress is displayed.

2nd.—Went out at nine this morning to see the flower-market, and the place where trinkets are exposed for sale. The air was redolent with the perfumes of the flowers, and their tints seemed to me to be far richer and brighter than the same species are with us. Never had I seen such tuberoses, Spanish jessamines, and laurel roses; and the Neapolitan and Parma violets exhaled their delicious odours all around. There was no lack of buyers, for the Genoese seem to consider flowers as a portion of the necessities of life, and, I am told, purchase them as regularly as we do vegetables. It was a pretty picture to see the rich and varied hues of the flowers, as they were ranged along in lines in the vessels that contained them, with women cheapening and assorting the bouquets they had selected; in each of which I observed they placed a bunch of orange flowers. The shops of the jewellers present a rich array of gold and silver filagree-work, in which the Genoese are said to excel. Neck-chains, very large earrings, crosses, and medallions, on which the head of some saint is engraved, are displayed to tempt the passers-by, who loiter

round with admiring gaze. The women of the middle and lower classes here, wear an abundance of gold ornaments. The greater number of those I saw this morning had very large earrings, golden neck-chains composed of ten and twelve rows, to which was suspended an immense cross or medal with a saint's head or scriptural device. They wear their hair divided in front, and generally without curls; the back hair is braided, and is confined by a large gold pin or bodkin; and a similar one fastens the mazero. A gold ring, shaped like the shields used by ladies to protect the fingers when working, is much worn here on the forefinger, and covers nearly the first joint of it. The mazeros of the female peasants are of printed cotton, of the brightest colours and most gaudy patterns. Designs of animals, birds, butterflies, fruits, and flowers, ornament these scarfs, which resemble the Indian panaplores used for covering beds. Young women place a bouquet of natural flowers in the front of their heads, beneath the mazero, which has a very pretty effect. The men wear bright scarlet Venetian caps, have their jackets swung carelessly over their shoulders by a cord, and look somewhat like the figures in a Dutch picture.

Lord Byron has just left our hotel; he came to us about two o'clock, and remained until half-past four. It is strange to see the perfect *abandon* with which he converses to recent acquaintances, on subjects which even friends would think too delicate for discussion. I do not like this openness on affairs that should be only confined to long-tried intimacy: it betrays a want of the delicacy and decorum which a sensitive mind ought to possess, and leaves him at the mercy of every chance acquaintance to whom he may make his imprudent disclosures. Byron seems to take a pleasure in censuring England and its customs; yet it is evident to me that he rails at it and them as a lover does at the faults of his mistress, not loving her the less even while he rails. Why talk so much and so continually of his country, if he felt that indifference, nay, hatred, to it, which he professes? He has promised to dine with us on Thursday; this being, as he asserts, the first dinner invitation which he has accepted during two years. Byron is perfectly at his ease in society, and generally makes others so, except when he enters into family details, which places persons of any refinement in a painful position. He has less, far less pretension than any literary man whatever of my acquaintance; and not the slightest shade of pedantry. This perfect freedom from conceit is well calculated to render him very popular, and to induce his contemporaries to pardon the immeasurable superiority of his genius.

3rd.—Saw the Durazzo and Brignole palaces to-day. The former contains a fine suite of rooms, richly furnished, and has some good pictures, among which a Madonna by Paul Veronese,

and some of the *chefs-d'œuvre* by Vandyck, most pleased me. The Brignole palace has also a fine collection of pictures, and can boast the same quantity of marble, gilding, mirrors, and paintings, that adorn the generality of Italian palaces; but possesses a degree of solid comfort, combined with splendour, that does not, I am told, characterise them. Although persons of taste and *vertu* reprobate and pronounce as meretricious the fresco painting on the exterior of some of the buildings at Genoa, I confess the effect pleases me. There is something gay and picturesque in it, notwithstanding the glare and gaudiness. With the exception of the three principal streets here, the rest are so narrow as nearly to preclude the use of a carriage. The entrance to the *Albergo del la Villa* is through a narrow flagged lane, having room for a single carriage to pass, the wheels of which graze the doors of the houses on either side; but the coachmen are so accustomed to these narrow lanes, that they manage to drive through them with safety. The shops here are very good; and several of them abound with the productions of England and France. They manufacture at Genoa a very rich brocaded silk, which they export for the Oriental markets, and which is sold at a very moderate price.

4th.—Saw, to-day, the Palazzo-Carega, which was designed by Michael Angelo, and reflects credit on his taste; and the Palazzo-Doria, in the Strada Nuova, which is a splendid edifice. How mean and insignificant our houses in England appear, in comparison with those I have seen here! on which wealth and art seem to have lavished their resources. But if we have no such palaces in England, have we not country-houses which, for comfort and good taste, are unrivalled by those in all other lands? and parks and pleasure grounds that surpass competition? But, above all, have we not the cottage homes of the humble classes, peeping forth from their trim gardens with all the neatness that betokens a love of order, and the enjoyment of a peaceful and paternal government? Yes, these are possessions to be proud of, and may well prevent our envying Italy her palaces. In the Palazzo-Carega is a very fine saloon, or gallery, literally lined by mirrors, which are only divided by gilt columns, and windows. The frames of the mirrors are beautifully designed and exquisitely carved, representing nymphs and cupids, with foliage and flowers. The sofas and chairs are carved in a corresponding style, and the hangings and covers of the furniture are of the most rich and rare silk. The stairs, in the generality of the palaces here, are of marble, the steps as well as the balustrades; and many of them are decorated with busts, statues, and *alti and bassi rilievi*, of excellent workmanship.

Byron dined with us to-day. He came early, and was in good spirits. He did not seem annoyed by encountering in the court

on the stairs, and in the corridors, a number of persons, who stared at him with more of curiosity than of good-breeding. The greater number were English, who reside in this and the other hotels in the neighbourhood; and who were all anxious to see their celebrated countryman. How his coming to dine here was made known I cannot imagine, unless it were by the gossiping of some of our English servants; and this most uncereemonious examination might have displeased him, had he been, as he is represented to be not unfrequently, in a less placable humour. Byron loves to dwell in conversation on his own faults. How far he might endure their recapitulation by another, remains to be proved; but I have observed, that those persons who display the greatest frankness in acknowledging their errors, are precisely those who most warmly resent their detection by another. I do not think Byron insincere in his avowal of his defects; for he has too much acuteness of perception not to be aware of them, and too great a desire of exhibiting this acuteness, not to make admissions that prove his power of analysing his own mind, as well as the minds of others. But it appears to me that he is more ready to acknowledge his infirmities than to correct them; nay, that he considers the candour of his confession as an *amende honorable*. There is an indescribable charm, to me at least, in hearing people to whom genius of the highest order is ascribed, indulge in egotistical conversation; more especially, when they are free from affectation, and all are more or less so when talking of self, a subject on which they speak *con amore*. It is like reading their diaries, by which we learn more of the individuals than by any other means. Byron's countenance is full of animation when he recounts, its expression changing with the subjects that excite his feelings.

5th.—There is a peculiar lightness and elasticity in the air of this place, which begets a buoyancy of spirits even in us children of a colder clime. It is positive enjoyment to look out on the blue unclouded skies, and the not less blue waters, that are glistening beneath the sunbeams, which are at this moment shining as brightly as if it were June, instead of April. Then the look of cheerfulness that each countenance one encounters wears, is exhilarating. Climate, aided by the light yet nutritious food in general use in Italy, is productive of a disposition to be pleased, that robs the asperities of life of half their bitterness; although it may indispose people to studious pursuits, or unfit them for laborious ones.

Alas! alas! our fears were prophetic. We have this morning had a letter to announce to us the death of Andriani! He expired a few days after we left Nice, of an attack of gout in his stomach. Peace be to his manes! He was, indeed, amiable, intelligent, and well-informed, and possessed an enviable degree of philosophy in

supporting the attacks of a cruel disease, from which during many years he had but short respite. If he could have bequeathed his knowledge to any surviving friend, how rich would have been the bequest ; or could he even have divided it into legacies to each, how useful might it have been ! What treasures of erudition and stores of knowledge die daily, leaving no trace but in the recollection of friends who have partaken of the rich treat.

Our horses are arrived, and to-morrow I intend to mount my favourite one, Mameluke, and explore some of the beautiful country in this vicinity, of which report speaks so highly, and the greater portion of which is only accessible on horseback.

Saw the Palazzo-Serra to-day. The splendour of one of its *salons* surpasses all that I have previously beheld, and gave rise to the appellation of the Palace of the Sun, bestowed upon it by a French tourist. The decoration of this apartment, exclusive of the pictures and porcelain, which are of great value, are said to have cost forty-four thousand pounds. This ill-judged magnificence in one room, throws the rest of the apartments into shade, and gives the impression that the palace is not sufficiently grand for it. Each side of this saloon is supported by marble columns, which are gilt ; and between them are placed mirrors, which extend from the frieze to the floor. A fire-place is placed *vis-à-vis* at each end, with mantel-pieces of great beauty, and exactly similar, and on them stand vases of ancient Sevres china, that excite the admiration, if not the envy, of every connoisseur. The doors are frosted with powdered lapis lazuli, which produces a very rich effect ; and the architraves and panels are finely carved and gilt. The furniture of this saloon is of the most splendid description, and the *ensemble* has more solid grandeur than that of any apartment I have ever beheld. Our sovereign would turn with distaste from the finest room in any of the royal residences, could he see this in the Palazzo-Serra ; and his love of splendour in decoration would be here fully gratified.

In passing through the streets at Genoa, it is amusing to look at the culinary occupations going on in each ; with the exception of the three principal ones. Nor is there aught disgusting in the process, or in the odours exhaled ; for the oil used in the *frituras* is of the pure olive, and the cooks are not only scrupulously clean in their dress, but the utensils they employ look equally so. Here the *polenta*, *polpetta*, and *ravioli*, the three favourite dishes of Genoa, are prepared ; and great is the demand for them, and the avidity with which they are devoured. But not only are the national dishes thus cooked in the streets, but shops are in each, and ranged on the quays, in which edibles of a more costly nature are to be procured ; and where cutlets and capons, smoking hot, tempt

by their savoury odours the appetites of the passers-by. In the back of these shops are stoves, round which are placed all the necessary apparatus for cooking; and the proprietor, with one or two assistants, white-capped and aproned, with knife in belt, stand ready to boil, stew, fry, or broil, according to the wish of their visitors. A portion of the shop is devoted to undressed dainties, which are seen peeping forth from green leaves; and snowy napkins, waiting to be selected by some pedestrian epicure, who may see his dinner cooked, and eat it on the spot, in a very short space of time. These *restaurants* are chiefly frequented by artisans, and persons of that class; and much time is saved to them by the facility of finding their repasts prepared at a few minutes' notice. Men and women roll barrows through the streets, piled with trays, on which various kinds of *comestibles* are disposed, and thus serve the inmates of the different artisans' houses, who are saved the trouble of cooking, and the expense and heat of fires. The cleanliness of these people, as well as that of the articles on which the food is placed, precludes the disgust one might experience at beholding such a constant succession of eatables passing and repassing; and it is amusing to witness the eagerness with which their approach is hailed.

6th.—Yesterday a courier reached us from London, with the sad news of the death of dear Mountjoy. Although long prepared for this melancholy event, it has fallen on us as heavily as if we counted on his days being lengthened. How difficult is the task of offering consolation to a father who has lost the heir to his house, and a child too who gave the promise of every virtue!

Lord Byron has evinced great kindness and feeling on this occasion. He has sent to inquire how his friend is, and has written to him, in a spirit of sympathy that it is gratifying to witness in one who has been suspected of possessing more warmth of imagination than of heart. A presentiment of evil seized me, when I saw a courier, his steed covered with foam, and himself with dust, arrive at our inn. Poor dear Mountjoy! he expired on the 26th of March, and Carlo Forté, the courier, reached this from London in eight days. Well may it be said that bad news travels quickly.

10th.—How heavily have the last few days dragged on, employed in efforts to console one, who has experienced so heavy an affliction that the words I would pronounce to comfort him seem even to me so cold and valueless, that they falter on my tongue, and I want the courage I would give. I have only once opened my journal since the melancholy news reached us; for how note down, while the blow is yet so fresh, the thoughts to which it has given birth, and the sadness it has inspired! We have made a

compact to talk no more of this calamity, but it will be long ere we can cease to think of it. How discordant to the feelings it is, to see a brilliant sun shine streaming in through the windows, and to hear sounds of gaiety from without breaking in on the ear, when the mind is occupied only with sorrowful regrets! One would have the air, the clouds, and all nature grieve, when one is in sorrow; and we turn from the sunshine with a feeling of reproach at its want of sympathy with us.

Rode out to-day, and found Mameluke as fresh and lively as if he had not made a long journey. Lord Byron was our cicerone, and took us to Nervi, one of the prettiest rides imaginable, and commanding a fine view of the sea. He pointed out the spots whence the views were the most beautiful, but with a coldness of expression that was remarkable. Observing that I smiled at this insensibility, he too smiled, and said, "I suppose you expected me to explode into some enthusiastic exclamations on the sea, the scenery, etc., such as poets indulge in, or rather are supposed to indulge in; but the truth is, I hate cant of every kind, and the cant of the love of nature as much as any other." So to avoid the appearance of one affectation, he assumes another, that of *not* admiring. He especially eschews every symptom indicative of his poetical feelings; yet, nevertheless, they break out continually in various ways, when he is off his guard. Byron has redoubled his kindness to his friend, since the death of his son. There is a gentleness and almost womanly softness in his manner towards him, that it is peculiarly pleasing to witness. Yes, there is much goodness in this man's nature, warped as it has been, by untoward circumstances, acting on the excitable temperament of genius, and he may yet redeem the errors, from which few if any are free; and prove that his heart is no less noble than his intellectual faculties are brilliant. He has taken quite a fancy to Mameluke, who he imagines is too spirited for a lady's horse; and thinks me a female Nimrod for managing so fiery a steed so well; whereas the fact is, poor Mameluke is like his mistress (on horseback), only given to show off a little, and by no means so impetuous as he appears. When I looked on the calm and beautiful blue sea spread out to-day as we rode along, and the fair and fertile country through which we were passing, with the brilliant sky above us, and the musical voice of Byron sounding in my ears, my spirits felt relieved from the gloom that has clouded them of late, and I enjoyed the charms of this sunny land. Byron, too, admitted that the air and scenery produced an exhilarating effect on his spirits: but added smiling, "it is merely an affair of nerves, to which we are all more or less subject." He has a passion for flowers, and purchases bouquets from the venders on the road, who have tables

piled with them. He bestows charity on every mendicant who asks it ; and his manner in giving is gentle and kind. The people seem all to know his face, and to like him ; and many recount their affairs, as if they were sure of his sympathy. Though now but in his thirty-sixth year, Byron talks of himself as if he were at least fifty, nay, likes to be considered old. It surprises me to witness the tenacity with which his memory retains every trivial occurrence connected with his sojourn in England, and his London life. Persons and circumstances, that I should have supposed could never have made any impression on his mind, are remembered as freshly as if recently seen. For example, speaking of a mutual acquaintance, Byron said "— was the first man I saw wear pale lemon-coloured gloves, and devilish well they looked." Strange that such a mind should retain such puerilities ! Byron is neither a bold nor a good rider, although it is evident he has pretensions to horsemanship ; and the mode in which his horse is caparisoned would go far to prove this ambition.

11th.—Saw the Palazzo-Reale to-day, once the residence of the Doge, but at present occupied by the Governor. It contains a council-chamber, of great extent and fine proportions ; the sides of which are supported by large columns of variegated marble, between which are colossal statues of plaster, draped with white linen so well arranged, that at a little distance they produce all the effect of marble draperies. Some very fine marble statues once filled the places now occupied by these plaster casts ; but they were destroyed during the revolution, and the casts were substituted. Every place we have visited since we left home, bears the mark of revolutionary violence ; and its march may be traced by the ruins it leaves behind. With all that is fine in nature and art, its agents seem to have waged a merciless war ; and the very word, revolution, must to those who have lived much abroad, become associated with images of ruin and desolation. In visiting the palaces here, it is impossible not to be struck and disgusted with the contrasts afforded by their magnificence, and the appearance of those who generally are seen at their entrances, plying their trades, or loudly vociferating their demands, rather than appeals, for charity. Cobblers and vendors of fruit, obstruct the passage to a vestibule, lined with the most costly marbles ; and I have seen in such a vestibule, and crouching at the base of a pedestal supporting a statue of some individual, whose actions reflect a lustre on his country, two pale and squalid mendicants ; one employed in unravelling the matted locks of the other, and both exhibiting in every look and gesture, nature, in her most debased state. Such contrasts are peculiarly disagreeable to English people ; who, accustomed to the good order and fitness that reign at home, are shocked at the incon-

gruous *mélange* of splendour and squalid poverty, grandeur and filth, that are seen on the Continent. Genoa appears built as if to bid defiance to the scorching beams of the sun; for the streets are so narrow, and the houses so very high, that the passengers are never incommoded by them; a circumstance which justifies the observation of a French traveller, that Genoa seemed built only for summer. Yet the houses are very solid too, and nearly all that I have seen have fire-places in each room, as well as stoves in the ante-rooms.

12th.—Rode out to-day with Lord Byron, who led us to a new, and nearly as pretty a route as that of Nervi. He was in good spirits, and asked leave to introduce to us the Comte Pietro Gamba; brother to La Contessa Guiccioli, *la dame de ses pensées*. They are to call on us to-morrow, that Il Signor Conti may be presented in due form. Byron seems quite decided on going to Greece; yet he talks of this project as if it were more a duty than a pleasure. He asserts that he who is only a poet has done little for mankind, and that *he* will endeavour to prove in his own person that a poet may be a soldier. That Byron will fulfil this self-imposed duty, is, I think, nearly certain, and that he will fulfil it bravely, I entertain not a doubt; yet, from what I have seen of him, I should say that his vocation is more for a reflective than an active life, and that the details and contrarieties to which, from the position he will hold in Greece, he must be subjected, will exhaust his patience and impair his health. If he had only to lead an army to battle, I should have no fear of his acquitting himself well; for the fire and animation of his poetical temperament would carry him through such ordeals; notwithstanding the delicacy of his health, which he has greatly impaired by a regime more suited to an ascetic than to a would-be soldier. I can well fancy Byron rushing into the fight, and realizing in the field his poetical ideas of a hero; but I cannot imagine his enduring the tedious details, and submitting to the tiresome discussions and arrangements, of which as a chief he must bear the weight. We have made the acquaintance of Captain Wright, who called on us to-day. He is brother to the Captain Wright whose mysterious death in prison with Pichegru, created so much suspicion, and drew such obloquy on the then ruler of France. Captain Wright is, or was, a captain in our navy, and is now admiral in that of the King of Sardinia. He has invited us to go on board his ship, of which report speaks highly. One of the most interesting promenades, at least to us, is the quays here. A number of vessels from various countries are always in the port, presenting a forest of masts from which the flags of almost every European nation are seen floating in the air; and as many dialects as Babel owned strike

on the ear. It is interesting to examine the endless variety in the forms of the ships of different countries; and highly gratifying to an English eye, to witness the great superiority of ours over all others. Cold must be the heart that does not throb with a quicker pulsation, when the banner of its country is seen waving in a foreign land; that banner which may well be named the ensign of valour. It brings with it a thousand national feelings; mingled with that yearning for home, which all experience when long absent from it. The sentiment, so natural to the natives of every country, is most warmly experienced by those of England; to whom, the sight of a ship is as a remembrancer of glorious victories. A visit from Mr. Hill, our minister to Sardinia. He has only now arrived from Turin; the King of Sardinia having come to pay his annual visit to Genoa, and Mr. Hill, in right of his place, following the court. He is lively, clever, and amusing, and very hospitable, if we may judge by the pertinacity with which he presses his invitations. He is very partial to Lord Byron; but complains that he cannot induce him to dine with him above once in four or five months. The entry of the King was simple and unostentatious, unescorted by guards, and attended solely by his suite, who occupied six coaches. To those accustomed to see the tasteful and well-appointed equipages of our sovereign, those of his Sardinian majesty could not appear to advantage. Nothing could less resemble, what in London phraseology is termed, a good "turn out;" heavy, rumbling, ill-constructed, ill-painted, unvarnished vehicles, which prove that the art of coach-making is still in its infancy in Sardinia. It has seldom occurred that two persons so exceedingly plain as are their Sardinian majesties, are united; and it would be difficult to pronounce which of the two is the more ill-looking. They are popular here, and are said to merit it by their good qualities.

13th.—A visit from Lord Byron and Count Pietro Gamba. The latter is very good-looking and gentlemanlike, with a complexion much more resembling that of a German than an Italian. They are to dine with us to-morrow. Went over the cathedral of St. Lawrence, which is built of black and white marble, a mixture that produces a very bad effect. The statues placed in the niches in front are so small as to injure the appearance of the building. The interior corresponds with the exterior in bad taste. A line of two arches, one raised above the other, supported by pillars, and composed of black and white marble, gives the notion of an ill-constructed aqueduct; while the grotesque figures of saints and angels glittering with meretricious ornaments, stuck up at every side, impair, if they do not destroy, that sentiment of religious awe and veneration, which a temple dedicated to the Divinity should inspire.

14th.—An excuse from Lord Byron, who is unable to dine with us, owing to his having applied caustic to a wart on his face, which has so inflamed it, that he says he is not presentable. I observed a mark yesterday, which became much darker before he went away, and smiled on thinking how much annoyed he would be when he made the discovery; for though by no means a vain man, he is not one to bear with patience any disfigurement of his face.

Went to see the Albergo dei Poveri, a fine building, and, as a French writer observed, more resembling a palace than an hospital. A statue of each of the benefactors is placed in the grand hall; an ostentatious exhibition, which detracts from the merit of their charity. A *basso rilievo* of great beauty, by Michael Angelo Buonarroti, enriches the church of the Albergo; it represents a half-length figure of the Virgin pressing the dead body of Christ to her breast. The expression of grief in the countenance of the Virgin, with the perfect personification of death in the image of the Saviour, is truly admirable. In this chapel is also a full-length statue of the Virgin by Puget, which is considered the *chef-d'œuvre* of that artist: the drapery is finely executed.

Mr. Hill dined with us. His conversation abounds with interesting anecdote, which he tells very well. He has lived much in foreign courts, has acquired all the *savoir-vivre* of a Frenchman, without having lost any portion of the manliness and originality peculiar to his countrymen, which gives to his manners an agreeable easiness that I like.

15th.—The streets at Genoa appear chequered like a backgammon board, owing to the number of priests clothed in black and white, that are continually passing through them. One cannot proceed twenty paces without meeting two or three monks, who seem to have no occupation save the idle one of perambulating the town. Every week has two or three fêtes, when the lower classes make holiday, deeming it irreligious to work during those celebrations. Hence the greater portion of their time is wasted in processions and festivals, in which superstition and idolatry are but too visible. We have as yet had no reason to give credence to the proverb applied to Genoa, that it has a sea without fish, and men without faith; for we have had excellent fish served at table every day since we have been here; and in various dealings in shops, have found no instances of extortion or fraud.

16th.—Rode out with Lord Byron, who has recovered from the effects of the caustic, though a slight mark of its power still remains. He has promised to dine with us to-morrow, and to meet us at Mr. Hill's on the 20th. He has a great dislike to encountering strangers; and we have pledged ourselves to have none when he dines with us. He told me to-day, that he has not once visited

the Opera since he has been here, nor seen a single palace. "I like music," said he, "but do not know the least of it, as a science; indeed I am glad that I do not, for a perfect knowledge might rob it of half its charms. At present I only know, that a plaintive air softens, and a lively one cheers me. Martial music renders me brave; and voluptuous music disposes me to be luxurious, even effeminate. Now were I skilled in the science, I should become fastidious; and instead of yielding to the fascination of sweet sounds, I should be analyzing, or criticizing, or connoisseurship-izing (to use a word of my own making) instead of simply enjoying them as at present. In the same way, I never would study botany. I don't want to know why certain flowers please me; enough for me that they do, and I leave to those who have no better occupation, the analysis of the sources of their pleasure, which I can enjoy without the useless trouble." Byron has little taste for the fine arts; and when they are the subject of conversation, betrays an ignorance very surprising in a man who has travelled so much. He says, that he *feels* art, while others *prate* about it; but his neglect of the beautiful specimens of it here, goes far to prove the contrary.

17th.—Saw the church of St. Etienne to-day. It contains an inimitable picture, the joint labour of Rafaele and Julio Romano; the upper part being by the former, and the lower by the latter master. This justly celebrated picture occupied a distinguished place in the Louvre during the dynasty of Napoleon, that most successful, but unscrupulous collector of modern times; who, if he gave cause of complaint to other nations, by his unceremonious appropriation of their most rare and costly works of art, at all events thereby rendered Paris a focus of attraction to the rest of the world. His subjects, while viewing with exultation the magnificent pictures in the gallery of the Louvre, were not disposed to question the means by which it was enriched:—nay I believe, that considering them to be won by the right of conquest, they were regarded with an increased pleasure, as trophies of their prowess, and consequently, a peculiar subject of national complacency. But to return to the picture: the figure of St. Etienne, who is represented kneeling, with the head turned upwards, and the eyes fixed on the sky, has an expression of resignation and piety, triumphing over physical suffering, that is admirably portrayed, and finely contrasted with the violent gestures and furious countenances of the figures who surround him. The head of the Saviour is full of majesty and beneficence; but the clouds in which he is enthroned, and which divide the upper section of the picture from the lower one, are too dark for the general effect. The cherubim supporting the clouds give a theatrical air to the

whole, and impair the beauty of it so much, that one cannot help wishing that it had been divided into two pictures. I do not mean that I desire that it were cut into two; though if even this hazardous act were perpetrated, two admirable pictures *might* be obtained in the lieu of one imperfect one: but I do wish that Rafaele had finished his portion without the introduction of that by Julio Romano; whose work, by itself, would have been a noble one. In its present form, it is but too evident that two hands and two minds have been employed upon it; and this discordant union considerably detracts from the perfect harmony of the whole. The church of St. Etienne contains some other pictures; but the painting I have noticed prevents one from looking at them.

Rode out with Lord Byron and Comte Pietro Gamba. Byron's is one of the most sensitive minds I have ever encountered; tremblingly alive to the censure or opinions of persons for whom he entertains little respect, and less regard; yet, though desirous to be popular, incapable of making those sacrifices to conciliate public opinion, without which it can never be acquired. When reminded by some malevolent paragraph in a newspaper, or by some of the many injudicious friends, from which few are so fortunate as to be exempt, that he has incurred blame, he writhes under the censure, and fancies he avenges it by affecting a display of recklessness—nay, of far greater errors than he ever committed.

18th.—Went over the church of St. Lorenzo to-day; but did not see the celebrated *Sacro Catino* which it contains, as the key of the *armoire* that holds this treasure was not forthcoming. *It is said* to be a plate composed of one single emerald, considered to be the largest ever seen; and to have served the Saviour at the Last Supper. Queen Sheba is reported to have presented it to Solomon. The *Sacro Catino* was taken by the crusaders when they conquered Palestine in the twelfth century; and when the plunder was divided, this supposed valuable prize fell to the lot of the Genoese. It was estimated so highly that, in an emergency, it was pawned for no less a sum than nine thousand five hundred pounds; and, when redeemed, was placed in the charge of a guard of honour, named *Clavigeri*. It was exhibited once a-year before hundreds of prostrate devotees; and any person hardy enough to profane it by a touch was sentenced to a forfeiture of a thousand ducats in gold. The French did far more than profane this sacred gem by a touch; for they transported it to Paris, with the daring intention of selling it. But, alas! it passed not unblemished the ordeal of a laboratory: on scientific examination it was proved to be a piece of glass, instead of a pure and matchless emerald. When Genoa fell to the lot of Victor Emanuel, and restitution

became the order of the day, his Sardinian Majesty strenuously reclaimed his *Sacro Catino*; and, on receiving it, restored it to all its ancient honours, solemnly assuring its adorers that it was the real, true, genuine, and inestimable emerald; sinking the history of its mineralogical examination at Paris, any hint of which would incur the penalty of excommunication at Genoa. Oh! fie, Queen Sheba! how could you have been so dishonest as to have presented a piece of glass instead of an emerald to your admirer King Solomon? And you, O wise king! great trader with Ophir for "almug trees and precious stones," how chanced you to be such a bad judge of the latter as to be so completely the dupe of your regal flirt? Strange to say, the sacred use to which people here believe this *Sacro Catino* was appropriated at the Last Supper does not invest it with sufficient value in their eyes, unless the intrinsic estimation of its being an emerald is added! The meek and lowly Saviour required not the costly luxuries in which his followers delight. Would that, in all, they emulated his example.

19th. — Saw the church of St. Ambrose to-day. It is a fine structure, and has no less than seven cupolas; one large, in the centre, and three smaller ones, on each side. The church is richly decorated with the rarest marbles, a profusion of gilding; and nothing can exceed the beauty of the paintings of the cupolas and cieling. This church contains two pictures from the pencil of Rubens, and one—the Assumption of the Virgin—by Guido Reni; the latter is greatly admired, and has twenty-six figures, well painted; but the shadows are too heavy and exaggerated to please me. Over one of the altars in this church we noticed a figure of the Virgin, attired in the most *outré* style imaginable: her robes formed of flowered brocade and tissue, and her throat encircled by a rich coral necklace; her breast is pierced by no less than eight steel swords, and there is a mixture of horror and folly in the whole figure that renders it painful to be looked at. On the same altar is a large glass case containing an image representing Christ as an infant, the size of life, reclining in a sort of bed, composed of the most gaudy materials. A very fine lace cap and robe adorns this image, and a coverlet of cloth of gold falls over the bed. Nothing but a coral and bells is wanting to complete the representation of the infant heir of some wealthy house; yet this is the profane likeness of the meek and lowly Jesus—the blessed infant born in a stable, and who lived a model of humility!

Genoa contains no less than thirty-eight churches, most of them decorated in the richest style, and many ornamented with good pictures and statues. To recapitulate them would only be to describe columns, friezes of marble, alti and bassi rilievi, statues, pictures, and mosaic and tessellated pavements. The greater number

of the statues are from the chisel of Puget, and some of them have merit; although, as a sculptor, his excellence lay in colossall figures, rather than in those of moderate size.

20th. — Confined to my room with a severe head-ach; so was compelled to send an excuse to Mr. Hill. None of my party will go to dine with him, because I cannot: — an amiable attention on their part that I could well dispense with; for I am incapable of deriving pleasure from their society, being as unable to converse as to listen to conversation, while my head-ach continues. Oh! the misery of a bad head-ach, that resists the application of Hungary water to the temples, the pungent odour of salts, and cups of green tea and strong coffee! All these have I tried in vain; and the less gentle remedies of Dr. Alexander have been equally inefficacious. A lady once told me that the only use of which she found her head was, that it furnished her with an excuse for not doing anything she disliked; as the assertion that it ached relieved her from importunities. An ill-natured acquaintance added, *sotto voce*, that her friends would never have discovered that she had a head were it not for her continual complaints of the sufferings it caused her. The malady itself, however, disagreeable as it is, draws with it many other disagreeables: such as friends who propose infallible remedies, all of which have been previously tried without producing relief; friends who pity, and suggest the necessity of the quiet and repose which they preclude by their presence; or friends who tell one that it is useless to give way to head-ach; that Lady this, or Mrs. that, invariably conquers it, by air, exercise, and cheerful society. Then the doctors, who disagree as to the source of the malady; one insisting that the disease proceeds from the stomach, and another who maintains that it is purely nervous; while the unhappy victim wishes that one or both of the M. D.'s had all the pain she is enduring inflicted on their own craniums, that they might be more capable of judging its miseries. Not the least annoyance occasioned by disease is the being reminded by friends of the imprudence that led to it. One is sure to be told that it proceeds from *over* exercise, or the *want* of it; from an insufficiency, or an excess of, sustenance; from too late hours, or too much sleep. In short, all one's habits, however temperate, and all one's pursuits, however rational, are scrupulously brought up in judgment against the unhappy sufferer; and each and all, positive and negative, are pronounced to be equally highly calculated to induce the malady in question.

21st. — Dr. Alexander told me to-day that Lord Byron has injured his constitution so much by the excessive use; or abuse, of medicine, that were any illness to assail him, he would soon sink under it. What a strange infatuation! originating, I am convinced, in

the anxious desire to be thin. It is this desire that prompts him to pursue a regime suited only to the ascetic habits of an anchorite, while he daily undergoes the acute pangs of hunger. And this is the man who is believed by the world to be a voluptuary, sunk in the thralldom of sensual gratifications! How little is he really known! But thus it is ever: the world is more prone to judge harshly than justly; and a continuation of the epicurean follies of Byron's youth, indulged in but for a brief period, will be falsely attributed to his sober maturity. The most meagre fare—and that but scantily partaken of; few hours devoted to sleep, and continual literary occupation, with a nearly total seclusion from society, bear surely no resemblance to the habits and mode of life for which people give Byron credit. That noble, but pallid brow, on which deep thought has left its ineffaceable traces—that almost shadowy figure, and those locks besprent with many a silver thread, are not those of a gross sensualist, but of an imaginative being, who has conquered the passions, or at least refused to minister to their indulgence. Such a triumph, while yet in the flower of life, could only be achieved by a very superior mind; and yet there is many a person who, while indulging in all the luxuries of sensuality, decries the man, who has learned thus early to vanquish their allurements.

22nd.—Rode out, and met Byron coming in search of us. He took us to see the Lomellini gardens, which contain, within a small compass, all that bad taste could invent to spoil the gifts of Nature. And this incongruous medley of islands four feet large, pigmy bridges, *rococo* hermitages, and temples *à la turque, à la chinoise*, etc., was—O profanation!—called a *jardin à l'anglaise*. Yet green trees, flowering shrubs, and limpid water, canopied by a bright blue sky, and fanned by a delicious air redolent of the breath of flowers, rendered this heterogeneous mixture of bad taste a very delightful spot to rest in for an hour or two; and Byron consequently is very partial to it. He gave us an amusing account of his dinner at Mr. Hill's yesterday, at which, he says, he so carefully avoided making any acquaintance with the ladies there, that he is persuaded they must think him a perfect savage. He has a positive dislike to intercourse with strangers, however attractive they may be, and is exceedingly shy when they are thrown in his way. Mr. Barry, the banker here, is highly esteemed by Lord Byron, who presented him to us to-day. He is intelligent, sensible, and well-informed; uniting, as Byron reports, a love of literature and the fine arts to extreme regularity and attention to business. He is a very good specimen of an English merchant—well-educated and well-bred.

On returning from the Lomellini gardens, we stopped to view the

Doria palace, the residence of the deservedly celebrated Andrea Doria. Although nearly in a state of dilapidation, this palace had more attraction for me than the most splendid of those I had hitherto viewed; for it is identified with the memory of him, whom it is the boast of Genoa to have justly appreciated. The garden wall is bathed by the waters of that sea over which he so often passed triumphant; and the site of the mansion is well chosen. The garden itself, however, is a miserable specimen of Italian taste, presenting stunted plants, and beds with scarcely a flower, those places designed for them being filled by an abundance of cut box, over which huge statues lift their disproportioned figures, adding greatly to the forlorn appearance of the spot. The Genoese still name Andrea Doria with pride; a proof, as Byron remarked, that they have not yet quite lost that national spirit which once rendered them respectable. Byron said that Doria would make no bad subject for a drama, filled as his life was with stirring incidents. "Were I to write it," continued he, "I would open with his victorious return from the conquest of Corsica. This would admit of good scenic decoration and effect, and some speechifying. It would be, in fact, an ovation offered to him by the republic of Genoa. The next scene should be his departure as captain-general of the galleys to attack the pirates, whose ravages spread such alarm in the Mediterranean. I would have the Genoese fleet appear, ay, and on real water too; for real water does wonders—witness Vauxhall in my day. An English audience is always ready to applaud any good exhibition of a naval kind; it 'comes home to their business and bosoms;' and there is not even a tailor in the good city of London who does not look big and swagger at an allusion to ships and the sea, arrogating both to be the peculiar, if not exclusive, right of his country. Scene the third should show a deputation from Francis I. of France, to entreat the services of Doria. I would pass over the defeat at Pavia, and also the services rendered subsequently by Doria to Clement VII., since their result did not save Rome from the uncereemonious visit of Bourbon and his troops; for a defeat seldom tells well with an English audience, unless the victors are English. I would again show him as a conqueror, in the service of France, in the Levant, covered with glory, and enriched by the sovereign, and then display him exposed to the destiny of all great generals who serve any country but their own; which destiny is, to be hated by the officers and courtiers of the nation they serve, and to become suspected, if no worse, by the sovereign. The attempts although fruitless, of Francis I., to seize the person of Doria, would give rise to interesting situations; and a love adventure could be introduced; for, without love, your English play-goers are seldom

content. I would exhibit his noble reception from the emperor Charles V., and his refusal of the pressing solicitations of that monarch to accept the sovereignty of Genoa. Here would be a good opportunity of making my hero utter some three or four patriotic speeches, in which the love of country, and the blessings of freedom, should draw down plaudits from the galleries at least, and this would help on my drama exceedingly. My hero should then appear as the saviour of Naples, and subsequently, as the rescuer of Genoa from the power of the French. That conquest of his, which considering the inferiority of his force to that which he attacked and routed, and the rapidity with which it was achieved, was really a splendid affair; and a little of the action seen, and the rest detailed by some looker-on from a tower, or elsewhere, would tell well. Then, his reception by his countrymen as their deliverer and father. Triumphal processions, with picturesque scenery and dresses, and my drama comes to a close; for I would omit his expedition against Algiers, in which he is said to have betrayed more finesse than became so great a warrior, owing to his desire not to abridge a war that maintained him in so influential a position. What think you of my drama? I never pass this old house, or read the inscription on its front, without experiencing a desire to write something about him, and something too that would act well; which my other dramas are not calculated to do, having been written more to be read than acted."

23d.—Captain Wright and Mr. Barry dined with us to-day. The former has set his heart on rendering the Sardinian navy a good one—nay, dreams of its one day competing with that of his own country, in skill and bravery, though not in force. It is pleasant to see any one earnest in a pursuit; yet it pains me to think that so much zeal, joined to such ability as he possesses, should not find employment at home; instead of teaching another nation to fight us with our own weapons.

27th.—I have been idle the last four days, and have not even opened my journal. One day of idleness, like one sin, is sure to beget another; and I sometimes think that I shall leave off journalizing altogether. But then comes the thought that perhaps in years to come, these hastily-scribbled pages may bring back pleasant recollections, when nought but recollections of pleasure shall be mine: and this foreboding induces me to continue. Mr. Barry has been giving me an interesting account of the Countess Guiccioli, whom he represents to be extremely handsome, as well as highly intellectual. She is of noble birth, being the daughter of Comte Gamba, a descendant of one of the most ancient families in Italy. Ravenna, in the vicinity of which her father possesses an estate, gave her birth. The Countess Guiccioli married, in her

sixteenth year, the Comte Guiccioli, the largest landed proprietor in the north of Italy, owning the greater portion of the rich country forming the Marches of Ancona, and possessing more than one fine château in the Bolognese territory. The Countess is the third wife of her lord, who is said to be many years senior to her father. So great a disparity of age led to the too common result, an incompatibility of tempers; and the accidental encounter of the fair young bride, at Venice, with Lord Byron, a few months after her ill-assorted marriage, gave birth to an attachment little calculated to render her more disposed to submit to ties which had been previously found difficult to be borne. After having in vain combated her growing affection for Byron, who had followed her from Venice to Ravenna, and as vainly endeavoured to reconcile the conflicting feelings of duty and an unhappy passion, a separation between the Countess and her husband took place. The Pope pronounced a sentence, decreeing that a certain provision should be assigned to the lady from the vast possessions of her liege lord, and that she should reside under the roof and protection of her father. Comte Gamba, and his son Comte Pietro Gamba, being a short time after suspected of participating in the liberalism of the Carbonari, a suspicion under which Lord Byron also fell, the Gamba family were driven from Ravenna, and took refuge at Pisa. Lord Byron, as a British peer, could not on mere suspicion be compelled to leave Ravenna; and though every means were used to induce him to such a measure, and that the absence of the Gamba family, with whom the Countess Guiccioli migrated, robbed Ravenna of its attraction for him, he continued to reside there for many months after her departure; although a system of unremitting espionage was exercised towards him and his domestics. Having remained sufficiently long at Ravenna, to convince the despotic government there that he was not to be driven from it an hour sooner than he desired, he joined his friends the Gambas at Pisa, where he remained some time. Here also, he and his friends suffered no little inconvenience from the *surveillance* directed towards them by the Tuscan government, alarmed out of its general urbanity to strangers, by the exaggerated reports of the ultra-liberalism of Byron and his friends. These reports gained such ground that Byron, while riding out with some half dozen of his acquaintance, and Comte Pietro Gamba amongst the number, was grossly insulted by a soldier; and on complaining at the guard-house of the unprovoked ill conduct of this man, which Byron had sufficient self-command not to personally chastise, met with insolence and threats from the guard, who turned out to attack the whole party. Byron, although much incensed at this wanton outrage, retained enough of prudence to gallop back to Pisa, in order

to report the conduct of the soldiers ; and had scarcely entered his own house, to change his riding costume for one more suitable for a ceremonious visit to the commandant, than the soldier who had insulted him, and who was galloping furiously past his house, fell desperately hurt from his horse, by a wound inflicted by some unknown hand. This incident led to a thousand misrepresentations, and threw the whole town into a state of confusion. A legal investigation took place, in which it was satisfactorily proved that neither Byron nor his friends were at all implicated in the attack on the soldier : but suspicion was attached to the coachman of the Countess Guiccioli ; and this circumstance, coupled with the pre-conceived dislike of the Tuscan government to the liberal politics of the poet and his friends, produced a distrust on its part that rendered their residence at Pisa peculiarly disagreeable. Still Byron remained there, lest it should be supposed he was driven from it ; a notion against which his pride revolted. It was more than once signified to him that his appearance at court would remove every doubt, and cause his *sejour* in the Tuscan states to be much more satisfactory to all parties ; but he never appeared within its precincts, although the Grand Duke and Duchess sojourned at Pisa during his residence there. A fray which occurred in his establishment at Monte-Nero, in the vicinity of Leghorn, shortly after increased the suspicions of the government. An Italian servant, under the influence of intoxication, wounded Comte Pietro Gamba, and behaved with such violence, that the former suspicions against the family were revived ; and the Gambas, in consequence, left the Tuscan states. Byron only remained two or three months after them at Pisa, whither he returned from Monte-Nero, and then came to Genoa. The Gamba family could only be allowed to reside at this place, as forming part of the suite of a British peer. They occupy a portion of the Casa Saluzzi, in which Byron dwells ; but their establishments are totally distinct, and the Countess Guiccioli lives with her father and brother, devoting nearly the whole of her time to study and music.

28th.—Colonel M— has arrived here, and came to see us to-day. He took us to the pretty garden and luxurious summer pavilion of M. de Negri, beautifully situated on the bastion of the Capuchins. The view from the garden is extensive and varied, and I cannot imagine a more delicious abode for passing a summer's day than the pavilion offers ; which boasts among its numerous attractions, one that is always irresistible to me, a fine collection of well-chosen English books. Colonel M. is very unfavourably impressed towards Lord Byron ; but this repugnance is not unnatural, he having entertained a strong sentiment of regard and esteem for Lady Byron during many years. All those who like her, think themselves

bound to dislike her lord, and *vice versa*; but for my part, I cannot partake this dislike; for although I feel disposed to think much better of this wayward child of genius than most people do, I have not the least prejudice against his wife; nay, on the contrary, although I never saw, I respect her. All that I have observed in him, and I have narrowly watched every indication of his character, leads me to infer, that he is a man with whom a high-minded woman would have found it difficult to live happily after the fervour of his passion was abated. Byron has a fault which peculiarly unfits him for constituting the happiness of such a woman as I imagine Lady Byron to be; and that is, a want of perception of the sensitive feelings of others, and a consequent natural inconsiderateness with regard to them. He is capable of grievously wounding such a person perfectly unconsciously; and of course of even afterwards neglecting to pour oil and wine into the wound, not through ill-nature, but from sheer ignorance of its existence. This negligence towards the feelings of others, proceeds from a too intense attention to his own; and is precisely the defect which a woman is least likely to overlook. I endeavoured to make Colonel M. think less harshly of Byron, and I hope I have succeeded in the attempt. However, to ascertain the exact meritoriousness of this action, the time, and place of its performance, ought to be taken into account; for it occurred during the steepest ascent of the very steep bastion on which M. de Negri's pretty garden stands, and the consequence was, that I talked myself completely out of breath in finding excuses for the poet. If people would but consider how possible it is to inflict pain, and perpetrate wrong, without any positive intention of doing either, but merely from circumstances arising through inadvertence, want of sympathy, or an incapability of mutual comprehension, how much acrimony might be spared!! Half the quarrels that embitter wedded life, and half the separations that spring from them, are produced by the parties misunderstanding each other's peculiarities, and not studying and making allowance for them. Hence unintentional omissions of attention, are viewed as intended slights, and as such are resented; these indications of resentment for an unknown offence, appear an injury to the unconscious offender; who, in turn, widens the breach of affection by some display of petulance or indifference, that not unfrequently irritates the first wound inflicted, until it becomes incurable. In this manner often arises the final separation of persons who might, had they more accurately examined each other's hearts and dispositions, have lived happily together.

29th.—Rode out with Byron. His pale face flushed crimson when one of our party inadvertently mentioned that Colonel M. was at Genoa. He tried in various ways to discover whether Colonel

M. had spoken ill of him to us ; and displayed an ingenuity in putting his questions, that would have been amusing, had it not betrayed the morbid sensibility of his mind. He was restless and unequal in his manner, being at one moment cold and sarcastic, and at the next, cordial and easy as usual. He at length confessed to me, that knowing Colonel M. to be not only a friend, but a bigoted partisan of Lady Byron's, and as such, an implacable enemy of his, he expected that he would endeavour to prejudice us against him, and finally succeed in depriving him of our friendship. This it was, he acknowledged, that had produced the change in his manner on hearing of the Colonel's arrival at Genoa. Byron has experienced the facility with which *professed* friends can, in adversity, be weaned from those who counted on their adherence ; and dreads again being exposed to the mortification such vacillating conduct can inflict. Apropos to this, he dwelt with bitter scorn on the desertion of many summer friends, when, on his separation from Lady Byron, their allegiance might have soothed him under, if it did not shield him from, the obloquy attempted to be heaped on his head by those who, envious of his literary fame, and jealous of the homage it received, armed themselves with an affected zeal in her cause, and a hypocritical pretence of morality, to decry and insult him. He still writhes beneath the recollection ; for the mobility of his nature is such, that he can recall past scenes of annoyance with all the vividness of the actual present, and again suffer nearly as much as when they occurred. It is strange that time, and distance from the scenes of his mortifications, have not taught him to despise their inflictors, or to reflect on them with no warmer sentiment than contemptuous pity ! But no, the wounds still rankle, and he adds hatred to contempt ; by doing which he confers, in my opinion, much too great an honour on his enemies.

30th.—Byron came last evening to drink tea with us, in fulfilment of a half-promise which he made when we parted before dinner. He was gay and animated, and recounted many amusing anecdotes connected with his London life, to which he is fond of recurring. He tells a story remarkably well, mimics the manner of the persons he describes very successfully, and has a true comic vein when he is disposed to indulge in it. To see him at such moments, who would take him for the inspired and misanthropic poet, whose lucubrations have formed an epoch in the literature of his country, and have been received with enthusiastic admiration throughout the Continent ? Could some of the persons who believe him to be their friend, hear, with what unction he mimics their peculiarities, unfolds their secrets, displays their defects, and ridicules their vanity, they would not feel gratified by, though

they must acknowledge the skill of their dissector; who by the accuracy of his remarks and imitations, proves that he has studied his subjects *con amore*.

May 1st.—Took a long ride with Byron and Count Pietro Gamba. The latter has promised to lend me "the Age of Bronze," a copy of which Byron has just received, but prohibited me from speaking of it to him, as he said Byron did not wish it to be named. How unaccountable to make a mystery of a published book, which has been for some weeks in every one's hands in England! Probably the interdiction was uttered in one of those moments of irritation to which the poet is subject. He makes no concealment about the work he at present has in hand; a continuation of Don Juan, of which he speaks without any reserve. He says, that as people have chosen to identify him with his heroes, and make him responsible for their sins, he will make Don Juan end by becoming a methodist; a metamorphosis that cannot, he thinks, fail to conciliate the good opinion of the religious persons in England, who have vilified its author. Went to the Opera, and was disappointed by the *coup d'œil* the theatre presented; the want of light throwing a gloom over all but the proscenium, which I must admit gains by the obscurity of the rest of the house. It is impossible to distinguish the faces of any of the ladies in the boxes, so that the handsome and the ugly are equally unseen; and no *belle* can be here accused of going to the Opera to display her charms: an accusation not unfrequently preferred against beauties in London and Paris, where the theatres are so brilliantly lighted. The boxes at the Opera House here, are fitted up according to the tastes of the owners. They are, for the most part, simply furnished with plain silk curtains; and it is not uncommon for ladies to have a card-table, and enjoy a quiet game during the performance, or between the acts. A pair of wax candles are generally placed in each box, but so much in the back of it, as not to give any light to the house. This theatre can only be approached by pedestrians or sedans—a great nuisance, in my opinion; but the Genoese are so accustomed to it, that they do not seem to think it one. The performance was tolerable,—that is, it was considered only so here, where the people are passionately fond, and are critical judges of music; but I have heard much inferior rapturously applauded at the Opera in London, where the audience is much less fastidious than on the Continent, and infinitely more liberal in their remuneration of talent. The King and Queen are said to be very partial to music, and their constant attendance at the Opera would go far to confirm this assertion; were it not that their nightly visits to it may be accounted for by the proverbial dulness of a courtly circle, in which a more than ordinary strictness of etiquette prevails, com-

pling them to seek the relaxation of a theatrical amusement, as a resource against the ennui of home.

3d.—Byron has asked me to use my influence with Colonel M. to induce him, through the medium of his sister, who is the intimate friend of Lady Byron, to procure a copy of Lady B.'s portrait, which her Lord has long wished to possess. This request has given me an opportunity of telling Byron, that Lady Byron was apprehensive that he might claim their daughter, or interfere in some way with her. Byron was greatly moved, and after a few minutes' silence, caused evidently by deep emotion, he declared that he never intended to take any step that could be painful to the feelings of Lady Byron. "She has been too long accustomed to the happiness of a daily, hourly communion with our child," said he, "to admit of any interruption to it, without being made wretched; while I"—and he looked more sad than I had ever observed him to do before—"have never known this blessing, have never heard the sound of Ada's voice, never seen her smile, or felt the pressure of her lip,"—his voice became tremulous—"and can therefore better resign a comfort often pined for, but never enjoyed." He has promised me to put his wishes on paper, that there may be no mistake, or possibility of misconception. I have just got this letter,⁽¹⁾ which I am to show to Colonel M. I hope it may tranquillise Lady Byron's mind, and procure for her husband the portrait he so much desires to possess. He continually leads the conversation to Lady Byron, always speaks of her with respect, and often with a more tender sentiment, and has not yet learned to think of her with the indifference which long absence generally engenders. Byron's heart is by no means an insensible one; it is capable of gentle and fond affection: but his imagination is so excitable, and it draws such overcharged pictures, that the dull realities of life fade before its dazzling light, and disappoint and disenchant him, silencing the less powerful feelings of the heart. He has exercised his imagination much more than his affections; and the consequence is, that the undue cultivation of one faculty, while others are allowed to remain dormant, has led to the same result in the moral, as it invariably does in the physical system; an unhealthy activity, injurious to the sober reason which establishes an equilibrium in the mind.

Read "the Age of Bronze;" a pungent satire, containing many good hits. The allusion to Napoleon and his fallen fortunes is good, and the desertion of the potentates who had most ministered to his will, is powerfully animadverted upon. As the pearl is created by the malady of the oyster in whose shell it is found, so are the brilliant satires of Byron produced by that

(1) See Moore's *Life of Byron* for this letter.

mental malady, a too great sensitiveness, the inseparable accompaniment of genius. How much disappointment and annoyance must a man have experienced before he thus retorts on his fellow-beings, inflicting on them some portion of the bitterness he has been compelled to endure! If we knew the sufferings that often lead to men becoming satirists, we might perhaps be more inclined to pity them for the cause, than to dislike them for the effect.

Went to the Opera last night, to the newly-fitted up theatre which joins the royal palace; and to which a private passage leads, for the use of their Sardinian majesties. This theatre is not of large dimensions, but its decoration is at once the most tasteful and splendid I have ever seen. The whole house, the proscenium of course excepted, was hung with amber-coloured silk velvet, bordered with a broad black velvet band, richly embroidered with silver, the draperies festooned and trimmed with silver bullion fringe, and drawn up by large silver cords and tassels. Innumerable cut glass lustres and chandeliers, with wax lights, gave the whole a magnificent effect; but, nevertheless, was injurious to the stage, and still more so to the audience, particularly the fair portion of it; for although brilliantly attired, they looked too simple for the splendid frames in which they were enshrined, like opaque stones set in diamonds. But all this magnificence of decoration, and the presence of royalty to boot, failed to draw a numerous audience; and the manager is, I fear, likely to be a loser by the speculation. The *Lady of the Lake* was well performed, some-parts of the music of which are very good. The march is full of spirit, and was given in a style that might satisfy the most fastidious musician. The love of music seems universal here. At the Opera, each individual of the audience appears to be a connoisseur, if not an amateur, of this charming science; and in every street, voices are heard singing the strains of Rossini with a *gusto* that is unknown save in the sunny south. The genial climate has ripened this taste for music and the fine arts, among a class of people, that with us have little feeling for them. Ambrogetti, who so long and successfully sustained the part of Don Giovanni at the Italian Opera in London, and who only resigned the character when he lost his voice, is here playing with the same animation as formerly, but miserably hoarse. A singer who has lost his voice, and a beauty who has outlived her charms, are melancholy objects of contemplation; particularly if they indulge the illusion that they have still some claim to the admiration they could once excite; an illusion, in which they can hope for no sympathy from others. I once heard a female singer, who had in her youth been listened to with delight by half Europe, declare, long after her voice was gone, that she had gained a note. "Yes," said a

person present, *sotto voce*, "the note of the raven." The only distinction that marks the presence of royalty at the opera here is, that no applause or disapprobation of the performance is expressed by the audience; such demonstrations being deemed an infringement on the rules of etiquette. No notice whatever is taken of the king and queen's presence, and they are permitted to make their entrances and exits without any of those uproarious acclamations which with us await the sovereign when he visits the theatre; and which, though well meant and indicative of his popularity with his subjects, must tend to prevent his more frequently honouring the theatres with his attendance. The royal family here seem to feel the value of the privacy which they are permitted to enjoy: and so would ours, I am persuaded, if they were allowed to possess a similar privilege. It certainly cannot be agreeable to be compelled to come forward to acknowledge half a dozen times in an evening the noisy plaudits of an audience; an honour shared in common too with all the favourite performers. Besides, I have often seen our king nearly overpowered by the fatigue of standing, and evidently stunned by the clamorous shouts of his loyal subjects.

4th.—Rode out with Byron, who came and dined with us. He was very indignant at some attacks against him, copied into *Galignani's Messenger* from an American newspaper. How strange it seems to me that a mind like his could be thus moved by such attacks! When did celebrity ever escape similar assaults? and why not attribute them to their true source, envy, and jealousy of that mental superiority, which not admitting the possibility of being doubted, is in general fated to be an object of hostility. This susceptibility to annoyance under attack from such frivolous sources, is the most striking instance of weakness that I have observed in this gifted and remarkable man; and is, I think, to be attributed to the state of nervous excitement to which he has reduced himself by severe abstinence and mental labour. I have endeavoured to convince him, that by allowing his feelings to be wounded by anonymous enmity, proceeding as it always must from some contemptible adversary, he leaves his peace of mind open to all scribblers, who, jealous of his fame, or vindictive against his politics, adopt this mode of venting their spleen. Byron is very partial to the Americans, and was consequently the more piqued by the censure on him conveyed in one of their newspapers; foolishly imagining the ill-natured comments of some unknown, and probably obscure writer, to be the opinion of the mass of the people.

Went on the water in the evening. Byron was much inclined to accompany us, but when we were about to embark, a superstitious presentiment induced him to give up the water party; which set

us all laughing at him, which he bore very well, although he half smiled and said, "No, no, good folk, you shall not laugh me out of my superstition, even though you may think me a fool for it."

5th.—Went to see Il Paradiso with Byron. It is a beautiful villa, near Albano, but in a very dilapidated state, and is to be sold for a very small sum. Byron wrote an impromptu with his pencil, on my expressing a wish to purchase it, (1) and laughingly said, "In future times, people will come to see Il Paradiso, where Byron wrote an impromptu on his—countrywoman; thus our names will be associated when we have long ceased to exist." And Heaven only knows to how many commentaries so simple an incident may hereafter give rise. Mr. Hill, Captain Wright, and Colonel Montgomery dined with us. The dinner was an agreeable one, which more frequently occurs abroad than in England, where the harmony of society is so often impaired by political discussions; or the cheerfulness of it clouded by the restraint imposed by a consciousness of different opinions amongst the guests. Politics is the Pandora's box of modern times, which once opened, discord flies out and peace is banished. Politeness, that general pacificator; which by compelling a truce, disposes people to encounter each other tranquilly, if not amicably, begins to lose its empire over the minds and measures of men; for although it forbids altercation, it cannot check certain symptoms of a diversity of opinions, destructive to the *laissez aller* which constitutes one of the greatest charms of society. And yet I must confess, that where people are earnestly engaged in politics, and honestly convinced that *theirs* is the right road, it is difficult, if not impossible, to live on habits of frequent intercourse with those whose opinions are diametrically opposite, without occasionally infringing on the neutrality that ought to exist in mixed society. Some zealous partisan will refer to the debate of the previous day, or the measure to be brought forward on the subsequent one; and this ill-timed allusion immediately becomes the signal for those half jest and half earnest little skirmishes at the dinner table, which although, in refined society, confined within the limits of good-breeding, nevertheless materially injure the general hilarity, if not the general harmony. On the Continent, the fine arts, in which nearly all individuals composing good company are ambitious to be considered amateurs, if not connoisseurs, form the general topic of conversation. Hence it is not only always amusing, but is often instructive; each person bringing his stock of knowledge as a contributor to the common mart. But even the fine arts are, with us not unfrequently made a source of party feeling. A Tory party patronize some one artist, whom they extol; and a Whig party protect another, whose talents

(1) See Moore's Life of Byron.

they proclaim to be unrivalled. This favouritism is not only injurious to art, but to society; as it furnishes another channel for the introduction of the baneful current of political feeling, that undermines the intercourse of private life. Woe be to the unfortunate artist who is made the pet of either party! for his pretensions to the distinction are sure to be acrimoniously questioned by the opposite one, and not unseldom are his claims found to be deficient. An artist of true merit should keep aloof from politics and the invidious protection they can bestow, and rely on his talents for the ultimate attainment of universal patronage.

6th.—Received a letter and copy of verses from Byron to-day, (1) and answered both by his messenger: a little bit of vanity, to show him the facility with which I can scribble rhymes; a facility which goes near to prove that I am not likely ever to write poetry, although I may versify. I took the same metre as that in which his poem was written, and as my lines were complimentary to his genius, the compliment contained in them will atone for their poverty.

The markets are filled with flowers and fruit, and green peas are no longer deemed a luxury here, so great is their abundance. [Nowhere have I tasted more delicious vegetables. There is a delicacy in their flavour not equalled by any that I have eaten elsewhere, and to be attributed, I suppose, to the purity of the air and the warmth of the climate, which has purified them of their grossness. The best of these are provided at Nervi, where the vegetables and its gardens are so near the sea, that its saline exhalations may have impregnated the soil, and thereby influenced the growth of its productions. The balconies of our apartments are filled with flowers that in England would have cost a large sum, and which here were procured for a comparative trifle; and every breeze from the sea in front, comes to us laden with their fragrant odours. The sky, the earth, the ocean, and the people, all alike seem to own the genial influence of May; nay, to have anticipated its arrival by at least three weeks, for never did I behold the month open so gloriously before. How utterly unlike is it to its unhappy representative in England! whose sun has to wrestle with whole masses of dense clouds, from which it can only occasionally disengage itself, still to battle *à outrance* with stern winter, who, like the Parthian, in slowly retreating, most desperately assails his opponent. One is not, here, compelled to arm oneself with shawls and cloaks ere a drive in an open carriage is ventured; and a cold east wind does not chill, while the sun is staring one's eyes out. Yet, "England, with all thy faults, I love thee still," and would not forsake thy shore, cold though it be, for the

(1) See Moore's Life of Byron.

sunniest land that summer ever smiled on.—It is pleasant to saunter through the flower-market and see the rich array there laid out to tempt the purchasers; who flock round cheapening the blooming and fragrant merchandise. The pretty Genoese house-keeper, with her gaily-coloured mazerò falling gracefully from her head and half-shading her basket of vegetables, crowned with an enormous bouquet of flowers, forms a very interesting feature in the moving picture which the market offers here. Children, too, flock with their nurses to buy a flower or two; and even priests, in their cocked hats, looking like Don Bartolomeo in *Le Nozze de Figaro*, are seen bearing away immense bunches of them, to offer up probably at the shrine of their patron saint, their black robes forming a strong contrast with the bright colours of the bouquet. Well-dressed cavaliers, with moustached lips and curly locks, are here to be met selecting the most rare flowers as meet offerings for their lady loves; and probably conning the dulcet sentences that are to compose the *billet-doux* which is to accompany the gift. Even the old flock here to purchase those fair and frail children of the spring, whose glowing hues and bland perfumes bring back the memories of their departed youth: and poor indeed must be the aged matron, whose homely chamber cannot boast a vase of them. I like to witness this general and predominant passion for flowers among all classes. It indicates an inherent refinement, and is a sort of bond of sympathy in taste, that exists in common between the rich and the poor, the noble and the lowly.

8th.—Went on the water last night, and found the air as mild and balmy as if it were July, instead of the early part of May. The town appears to peculiar advantage when beheld from the sea; and particularly at night, when it looks like a vast amphitheatre, brilliantly illuminated, the illuminations vividly reflected in the sea. We were much amused by seeing the fishermen of Genoa plying their art in catching the finny tribes, in which they display no inconsiderable skill and dexterity. At the stern of each boat an iron pole is fastened, to which a basket of the same metal is attached, containing a fire, which emits a bright flame, and throws a red glare on the countenances and figures of the fishermen; one of whom stands at the stern with a long iron fork, with which he strikes the fish, the moment that, attracted by the light, it rises to the surface of the water. We saw several fish caught in this way, the men seldom missing their aim. The boatmen were nearly all singing barcaroles, some in choruses, which sounded well; and the whole scene resembled a fine Canaletti picture.

10th.—Rode out, and met Byron near Nervi. He talks of going to Greece, and made many jests on his intention of turning soldier. The excitement of this new mode of life seems to have peculiar

attractions for him; and perhaps the latent desire of rendering his name as celebrated in feats of arms as it already is in poetry, influences him in this undertaking. He spoke to-day of his having had an intention of writing a tragedy on the subject of Fiesco; but that he was deterred by Schiller's having executed the task so well. "There is something peculiarly grand and impressive," said Byron, "in the death of Fiesco at the very moment when he had arrived at the goal of his ambition. This manifestation of the hand of Destiny has always struck me as being a fine subject for a tragedy; and I don't think the German has made the most of it. Nevertheless, it is unpleasant to write on a subject already used; for one is sure to be accused of having stolen from one's predecessor in the work: and only once hint a symptom of plagiarism to the English, and they will discover examples of it in every line where a similarity of situation naturally compels some resemblance of ideas. Common-place people are so delighted with their own sagacity, that, when once the idea of an author's want of originality has been suggested to them, with a proud self-complacency, they will discover indications of it in every line; and even quote as proofs of it, the very historical incidents on which the tragedy is founded. The totally different treatment of the same subject does not, with them, redeem the second writer from the charge of having stolen from the first: and with this conviction, I have left Fiesco to Schiller, although Genoa set me thinking and collecting materials for writing a drama on the subject." Byron likes to talk of death, and often states his belief that his will not be a protracted life. He says that he never wished to live to old age; and would infinitely prefer descending to the grave while yet young enough to be regretted, (for he maintains that the old never can be lamented,) than drag on an existence, unloving and unloved, with faculties impaired, and feelings blunted. I hope he may survive long enough to know that every age has its own peculiar consolations; and that the old may enjoy the affection of those who have learned to view their infirmities but as additional motives for affectionate solicitude and kindness.

13th.—Byron dined with us. He has been endeavouring to persuade us to stay at Genoa until he embarks for Greece; and was half offended because I persisted in the intention of going away the end of this month. Having seen all that Genoa and its environs contain, I am anxious to resume our route to Naples; consequently firmly resisted Byron's entreaties. The pertinacity with which he urged our stay was very flattering; and the pouting sulkiness, like that of a spoilt child crossed in some favourite project, with which he resented my refusal was amusing, inasmuch as it afforded a proof of how little he is accustomed to have his plans

or wishes defeated, and how little calculated he is to support such annoyances patiently. He threatened us with not dining again at our hotel, now that he saw how little we were disposed to make any concession to his gratification; but on my saying, somewhat saucily, that had we supposed his dining with us was considered by him as a sacrifice, we should never have urged it, he seemed a little ashamed of his petulance, and resumed his good humour. Byron's reading is very desultory. He peruses every book that falls in his way, devouring their contents with great rapidity; but those he wishes to study he reads slowly, and not unfrequently twice. There is no book, however puerile, from which he does not glean something, which transmitted through the alembic of his powerful mind, acquires a new value. He confesses that even books of little merit have often suggested images and trains of thought to him which he has turned to good account; and he is not a little vain of this chemical skill which enables him, Midas-like, to turn what he touches into gold.

16th.—Took a long ride with Byron. He was in low spirits, and spoke with sadness of his future prospects. I held out to him the hope of his returning from Greece with so bright a halo of glory around his name, that his countrymen might become as proud of him as a warrior fighting in the cause of freedom as they had been of him as a poet, before he had written certain books that had given such offence in England. This thought seemed to cheer him for a moment; but it was but for a moment, for he shook his head, and said that he had a conviction that he should never return from Greece. He had dreamt more that once, he assured me, of dying there; and continually entertained a presentiment that such would be the case. "Then why go?" asked I. "Precisely because I yield myself to the dictates of irrevocable fate, and should wish to rest my bones in a country hallowed to me by recollections of my youth, and dreams of happiness never realised. Yes! a grassy bed in Greece, and a grey stone to mark the spot, would please me more than a marble tomb in Westminster Abbey—an honour which, if I were to die in England, I suppose could not be refused to me; for though my compatriots were unwilling to let me live in peace in the land of my fathers, they would not, kind souls! object to my ashes resting in peace among those of the poets of my country." He speaks with great bitterness, and no wonder, of the treatment he experienced in England, previous to his last departure from it. But I think he does not sufficiently make allowance for the envy and jealousy which prompted people to seize on his separation from Lady Byron as a pretext for attacking him with a thousand slanders; to which her unbroken silence on the cause of their separation lent but too much colour. Byron

attributes the insults he received to a false system of morality in England, which condemned him without proof, and intruded itself into a domestic disagreement, in which not even friends are deemed authorised to interfere; instead of ascribing them to what is much more likely to be the true cause, an envenomed jealousy of his genius, and the success with which its fruits have been crowned. Other separations in high life have taken place, without either husband or wife being exposed to persecution; why then should his peculiar case be followed by such proofs of reprobation, were it not that envy eagerly seized on it as an excuse for propagating its malicious slanders?

20th.—A long lapse in my journal, caused by indisposition. Genoa begins to be oppressively hot, and the sea breezes seem to waft warmth, instead of freshness, to this shore. The hills that encircle three sides of the town, leaving it open only to the sea, precludes a thorough circulation of air, and the heat once commenced, becomes tenfold increased by its confinement.

Rode out this afternoon, and met Byron and Comte P. Gamba, who returned with us to Nervi, where they had already been. Byron told us that he had written to Rome, to request his friend Mr. Trelawny to join him for the expedition to Greece; and spoke of that gentleman in terms of high eulogium. He said that, since the death of Shelley, he had become greatly attached to Mr. Trelawny; who, on that melancholy occasion, had evinced such devotion to the dead and such kindness to the living, as could only spring from a fine nature, and which had acquired him the regard of all who witnessed it. The distinguished bravery of this gentleman has created a lively admiration in the mind of Byron; who reverts with complacency to many instances of it witnessed by him since the commencement of their acquaintance. It sounded strangely in my ears, to hear one Englishman praise another for bravery; a quality so indigenous in our countrymen, as rarely to be made a subject of encomium; yet Byron's being a life of contemplation and literary labours, may account for the importance he attaches to more active pursuits; and to his admiration for courage, a quality of which he has read more examples than he has been called on to witness. He spoke of Mr. Canning to-day in terms of high commendation, and said that were he in England, he would support his measures. He refers, with evident annoyance, to his own want of success in his parliamentary career; and thinks he did not meet the encouragement to which, as a young speaker, he was entitled. He forgets, that although he came before the House of Lords as a young speaker, he had been some time before the public as a most successful poet; nay, that he had attained celebrity not only in this capacity, but as a powerful satirist. Consequently,

people expected an undue exhibition of talent from him; and were therefore disappointed by a speech, which had he *not* been a poet, might have met with a more flattering reception. Byron is too easily excited, and has too little self-command, to make a distinguished orator; unless he found himself surrounded by applauding hearers, instead of cold, if not disparaging listeners. Of this peculiarity, which appertains to the poetical temperament, he does not seem conscious; notwithstanding that it alone, I am persuaded, led to his failure, if failure it might be called, in the House of Lords. A literary man has many difficulties to cope with when he enters into a political career; not the least of which is the unreasonable expectations entertained of his powers in a sphere, totally different to that in which he has already been successfully tested; a sphere, too, for which his literary avocations peculiarly unfit him at the commencement. It is difficult, if not impossible, for him to fulfil the anticipations to which his talents have given birth in minds more disposed to censure than to encourage: and who, incapable of emulating his acknowledged abilities out of parliament, superciliously exult in the accident that their conversance with the purely mechanical routine of the House, renders them more *au fait* in certain tricks of public speaking than he, who in another, and perhaps a prouder capacity, has far outshone even the best of them all.

22nd.—We have purchased Byron's yacht, the Bolivar, and intend to keep it at Naples while we stay there. He has written much on board this vessel, which gives it its chief value in my eyes at least. We agreed to leave the nomination of the price to Mr. Barry, but Byron contended for a larger sum than that gentleman thought it worth. The poet is certainly fond of money, and this growing passion displays itself on many occasions. He has so repeatedly and earnestly begged me to let him have my horse Mameluke to take to Greece for a charger, that I have, although very unwilling to part from him, consented. To no one else would I have resigned this well-broken and docile animal, which I shall find great difficulty in replacing. My groom is *au désespoir* at my parting with so perfect a horse; but should Byron go into action in Greece, it is of importance that he should have a steady charger, for he is *not*, *malgré* all that has been said on the subject, a good horseman. Nevertheless, he has great pretensions to equestrian proficiency, and would not readily pardon any one who doubted his talents in this *genre*.

The Glasgow ship of war is arrived here, bringing Lady Hastings and family. The port is enlivened by this accession, and British tars are seen passing through the streets with that air of occupation that distinguishes this class of our countrymen. It does one's self-esteem good to see this fine vessel towering above all

others in the port ; and makes one feel proud to belong to a country that has such a maritime superiority over all other nations.

23d.—Captain B. Doyle, of the Glasgow, with one or two of his officers, dined with us to-day ; and invited us to go on board his ship to-morrow. There is a good breeding and marked courtesy to women which shines forth through the frank manners of nautical men, and adds a peculiar charm to them. Female society is so much more rarely within their reach, that custom has not rendered them as careless of the pleasure it can bestow, as are some of those who are habituated to it ; and I have seldom met even the least polished naval man without being struck by this distinction. A letter from Byron, saying that he cannot afford to give more than eighty pounds for Mameluke. (1) I paid a hundred guineas, and would rather lose two hundred than part with him. How strange, to beg and entreat to have this horse resigned to him, and then name a less price than he cost !

24th.—We went on board the Glasgow to-day, and a very fine vessel it is. Captain Doyle sent his barge for us, manned by some of the finest-looking men I ever saw, and fired a salute on our arrival. What an interesting scene does a ship of war present ! Such good order and perfect neatness, joined to a precision that conveys an impression of the high discipline maintained in this floating citadel. The quarter-deck was as scrupulously clean as the chamber of a quakeress ; and the open honest countenances of those who stood on it lost none of their attractions by the hue of bronze, that reminded one of the distant climes where they had sailed, and the dangers and hardships to which they had been exposed. Every appliance to comfort is to be found in the Glasgow, among which a well-chosen library has not been omitted ; and the cordial hospitality of its commander is so courteously offered, that all who enter the vessel must carry away a very agreeable impression of it and its officers. A collation was served to us worthy of being laid before the most fastidious epicures ; at which the fresh fruits and flowers of Genoa were abundantly supplied, and arranged with peculiar taste. The Glasgow proceeds to England in a few days ; and its inmates anticipate, with no little delight, their return to their native shore, and to those dear family ties that bind them to it so fondly. Such meetings repay the hardships and sacrifices by which they are bought, and constitute the brave and hardy sailor's reward for all his toils and perils.

27th.—The most kind and hospitable of men is our minister to the Sardinian court ; a gentleman equally popular and esteemed by the Genoese as by his own compatriots. He leaves nothing

(1) See Journal of Conversations with Lord Byron.

undone to render a residence here agreeable to the English; and I am only surprised that more of my migrating countrymen do not take up their abodes in a place that offers so many attractions. House-rent is peculiarly cheap: a good suite of apartments, containing from sixteen to twenty rooms, may be rented at Genoa for fifty or sixty guineas a-year; and a very splendid suite for about double that sum. Provisions are of an excellent quality, and very moderate price; and the government affords protection and encouragement to strangers, unless they forfeit it by an interference in politics, which too many are prone to do. The climate is good, though not free from the excessive heat of summer found so troublesome all over the south; and is exempt from the rigour of winter, which is the general objection to towns situated so near high mountains. The narrowness of the streets is the worst feature of this city, and would in case of epidemic diseases render it peculiarly liable to retain and extend the malady. Few English pass through Genoa, and still fewer make any stay here. This circumstance, Byron says, was its chief recommendation to him in selecting it as a residence: and it might also offer an inducement to persons with limited fortunes, by preventing the advance in house-rent and provisions, which never fails to follow the settlement of English families in any continental town, rendering many of them as expensive as London.

29th.—Byron dined with us to-day—our last dinner together for Heavens know how long—perhaps, for ever! We were none of us in a gay mood, and Byron least of all. He talked despondingly of his expedition to Greece; wished he had not pledged himself to go: but added, that having promised, he now felt bound to fulfil his engagement. His state of health is certainly not such as would warrant a man to undertake an expedition likely to expose him to personal hardship. He looks paler and more attenuated than when I first saw him, and his nervous system is still more deranged; a fact which is evinced by the frequency of his rapid transitions from deep depression to a reckless gaiety, which as quickly subsides into sadness. He cannot break through the ties that bind him to Italy without deep regret; and it is evident that his thoughts, even in society, are often dwelling on this point. His parting with the Countess Guiccioli will be a severe trial to his feelings; for though the fervour of passion may have subsided, the devotion and disinterestedness which this lady has displayed towards him, have excited a sentiment of attachment that will never be effaced from his heart, and which must render the hour of separation ineffably painful. I have never seen her; and am told she seldom goes beyond the garden of the Saluzzi Palace, and never enters Genoa. This total seclusion in one so young and fair, and in her own

country where *liaisons* similar to hers with Byron meet with no reprehension, and entail no exclusion from society, argues the existence of a deep sentiment of affection on her part, which cannot fail to have created a lively gratitude in its object; notwithstanding he may not always have been able to vanquish that waywardness, which in some degree unfits him for insuring the happiness of domestic life. Byron has offered to pay us a visit at Naples, if, before we leave it, he can get away from Greece. He wishes to see Pompeii and the environs, of the beauties of which he has formed a high notion; and talked with pleasure of sailing in the bay in the Bolivar.

31st.—Captain Doyle and some of his officers dined with us to-day. They sail on the 2nd, the day on which we too leave Genoa. My heart yearns for home, although I am anxious to see Italy; and when I look from my window at the brave ship that will so soon glide over the sea to its native shore, I almost wish I was to be one of its passengers.

June 1st.—Genoa is dressed for a religious festival to-day: the fronts of the houses through which the procession is to pass, are hung with draperies of velvet, damask, and silk, of the richest and most varied dyes. The images of Madonnas and saints, placed in niches in the streets, are apparelled in the gayest dresses, in honour of the day; and are as fine as bright-coloured silks, gauzes, tinsel, false stones and flowers, can make them. I have seen the procession go to the church. The royal family, in full dress, formed a part of it; and the priests, with vestments and surplices stiff with gold and silver embroidery, and with rich canopies held over their heads, followed; attended by boys clothed in snowy white, bearing silver censers, from which ascended blue wreaths of smoke, impregnated with sweet odours that filled the air with perfume. All the insignia of the Roman Catholic religion were borne along in this numerous train; and among the most conspicuous was an ark of solid silver, ornamented by beautiful carving, and sparkling with a profusion of precious stones with which it was studded. This ark was placed on a platform or pedestal, and had a very rich effect. The whole *coup-d'œil* reminded me of the antique *alti rilievi* which I have seen, representing the triumphant entry of a Roman conqueror with the spoils he had taken; or some of the processions in Pagan worship represented on medals. The windows were filled with ladies richly habited; and the scene was gorgeous and picturesque.

Having been told that a religious celebration in a neighbouring village on the sea-shore was well worth seeing, we drove there: and were repaid by a display of a totally different and far more interesting kind. A vast number of peasants, male and female, attired in their fête-day dresses, formed of such varied and bright

colours that at a distance they looked like a moving *parterre* filled with tulips, first attracted our attention. The women wore richly embroidered bodices and white petticoats; their hair braided exactly as I have seen that of an antique statue, and crowned with flowers and large combs, or bodkins of gold filagree. Their earrings, of the same costly material, nearly descended to the shoulders; and around their necks were chains, from which hung crosses and medallions with the images of Madonnas and saints. They wore large rings, resembling the shields used by ladies to preserve their fingers when employed at needlework, and shoes of the most brilliant colours, with silver buckles that nearly covered the fronts of them. These gay dresses formed a striking and pleasing contrast with the sombre black and brown robes of the monks; and, the gold brocaded vestments and stoles of the priests were as admirably relieved by the snowy surplices of the boys who attended them. The procession moved along under an arcade of green foliage erected for the occasion, on the sea shore, the waves approaching to its very limit; and their gentle murmur, as they broke on the sand, mingling with the voices of the multitude as they chanted a sonorous hymn. The blue sky above, and the placid, azure sea, by the side of which the procession advanced, with the sunbeams glancing through the open arches of foliage, on the bright colours of the dresses of the priests and women, formed a beautiful picture; from which not even the deaths' heads nor grotesque images of saints and martyrs, could detract. The monks, bearing these sad mementos of mortality, wore cowls, with holes cut for the eyes, and cross-bones painted on their breasts. Some of them held banners on which were represented various insignia of death,—the whole scene reminding one of the old mysteries of the middle ages, in which the pomps and vanities of life were contrasted by the ghastly images of the grave.

2nd.—Byron came to take leave of us last night, and a sad parting it was. He seemed to have a conviction that we met for the last time; and yielding to the melancholy caused by this presentiment, made scarcely an effort to check the tears that flowed plentifully down his cheeks. He never appeared to greater advantage in our eyes than while thus resigning himself to the natural impulse of an affectionate heart; and we were all much moved. He presented to each of us some friendly memorial of himself, and asked from us in exchange corresponding *gages d'amitié*, which we gave him. Again he reproached me for not remaining at Genoa until he sailed for Greece; and this recollection brought back a portion of the pique he had formerly felt at our refusing to stay; for he dried his eyes, and, apparently ashamed of his emotion, made some sarcastic observation on his nervousness; although his voice was

inarticulate, and his lip quivered while uttering it. Should his presentiment be realised, and we indeed meet no more, I shall never cease to remember him with kindness: the very idea that I shall not see him again, overpowers me with sadness, and makes me forget many defects which had often disenchanted me with him. Poor Byron! I will not allow myself to think that we have met for the last time; although he has infected us all by his superstitious forebodings.

LUCCA, 6th.—Nothing can be more rich and varied than the scenery between Genoa and this place. The first day's journey commands a view of the sea, which spread out to the right, sparkles like some vast sapphire beneath the rays of the sun; while to the left rises a chain of hills covered with wood, behind which are a range of sterile rocky mountains bounding the horizon. Innumerable villas are scattered along the coast, and many of the wooded hills, whose bases are bathed by the sea, are studded with white buildings, which peep from the bright green foliage in which they are embowered, looking like pearls scattered on emeralds. The port of St. Margaritta is the most beautiful spot imaginable. The houses are shaded by trees; many of which seem absolutely bending their leafy honours to the limpid waves at their feet. Gardens and fields, glowing with vegetation, are seen around; and the vine no longer grows, as in France, in stunted masses, which, in my opinion, are inferior, in appearance, to the hop grounds in England; nor, as it is in the vicinity of Genoa, trained over arches of trellis-work. Here it winds itself luxuriantly round trees in many a mazy fold, its stems resembling serpents; while its tendrils form garlands, that, festooned from bough to bough, give the scenery the appearance of being prepared for a *fête champêtre*. A thousand wild flowers decorate the fields and hedges, and send forth delicious odours; and the costumes of the peasantry are in harmony with the landscape. The mazer of Genoa is replaced by a large white napkin, folded flat, and so arranged as to cover the crown of the head, and shade the brow. But this head-dress is chiefly confined to elderly women, the young wearing their hair in a net, which falls low on the back of the neck; and a small straw hat, shaped like a soup-plate, with rosettes of straw and other ornaments of the same material, fancifully worked, on the top of the head. This costume is becoming, but is certainly not useful in a climate where the inhabitants are exposed to the scorching rays of the sun.

The abundance of fire-flies was truly surprising; they looked like miniature reflections of the bright stars above, glittering on the fields and hedges. At Sarzana, where we slept one night, the fire-flies flitted about the gardens in myriads; and my *femme de*

chambre, true to the instinct of her *métier*, observed that it looked like a dark robe covered with spangles. (1) We crossed from Sarzana to Carrara by a road through a very beautiful country, that we might see the celebrated quarries which yield the purest white marble to be procured in Italy. Even in the quarry, this marble shows its superior quality; and in the workshops, where we witnessed the interesting process of shaping the rude blocks into statues and busts, the fine texture and pure colour of the material struck us with admiration. In the large studio we were shown several fine casts from the antique as well as from modern works. Canova's colossal statue of Napoleon, and the sitting one of his mother, were amongst the number. We saw no less than fifty busts of the Duke of Wellington; and the person who conducted us through the studio, told us that hundreds had been executed here, and sent to different parts of the globe: consequently, the countenance of our illustrious countryman promises to become as well known, even in the most distant regions, as is his fame. Long, long may England preserve the original, and glory in his achievements! Who would not have felt proud at beholding such multiplied resemblances of our great captain, and in belonging to a country that boasts of such a hero?

From Carrara to Massa, the country is beautiful; and the view of the vale of Carrara seen from a steep hill about a mile distant from the town, is worthy of Arcadia. Massa contains little worth notice except its ancient and picturesque castle, which overhangs the town; and a better inn than is often to be met with in so small a place.

7th.—Lucca is beautifully situated, and is clean; but even more *triste* and deserted than the generality of Italian towns. In the evening, however, it assumes a gayer aspect; for carriages of every form and fashion except that of our own country, are seen traversing it towards the ramparts, which is the promenade resorted to by the aristocracy of Lucca. Thither we proceeded, being assured, by our hostess, that we should be amply repaid for the trouble of our excursion by the view of the *beau monde* of Lucca. The carriages resembled those we see in old pictures, and must have been of very ancient date; the harness laden with ornaments, and the hammer-cloths as antediluvian as the carriages. These last might be heard at a considerable distance, and made more noise than any of our hackney coaches. The liveries of the servants were like those in a comedy of the olden time; but the

(1) The Italian superstition, which imagines the *luciofi* to be the souls of the departed, released for a few brief hours from purgatory, to hover around the scenes of their earthly existence, is generally believed by the peasantry, and the notion, though not orthodoxical, is not unpoetical.

heterogeneous addition of a *chasseur* in a rich uniform, stuck up behind, rendered the *tout ensemble* supremely absurd to eyes accustomed to the neat and well-appointed equipages of England. The female occupants of these carriages were dressed in the Paris fashions of three months ago; thanks to the celerity with which "*Le Petit Courrier des Dames*" voyages, conveying to remote regions *les modes nouvelles*, and enabling their inhabitants who cannot visit that emporium of fashion, Paris, to look somewhat like its fair denizens. It was curious to observe even the most elderly women dressed *à la mode de Paris*, seated by husbands in the costume of half a century ago; many of the latter comfortably enjoying their *siestas* while their better-halves fluttered fans of no small dimensions, with an air not unworthy of a Spanish donna. The fan seems an indispensable *accessoire* to a lady's toilette here, and I could have fancied myself in Spain when I saw the female occupant of every carriage waving this favourite weapon, and in vehicles also which accord so well with the descriptions I have read of those to be seen on the Prado at Madrid, Cadiz, or Seville. The young girls too, with their sparkling dark eyes and olive complexions, served to make the resemblance complete; nor were they wanting in those intelligent glances cast at the smart young cavaliers, who passed by on prancing steeds, glances of which report states the ladies of Spain to be so liberal. The *beaux* of Lucca nearly all wear mustachios, and locks that wave in the air as they gallop on horses that show more bone than blood; each covered with more leather accoutrements than would be required to caparison half a dozen chargers in England.

The cathedral at Lucca is a fine gothic building, and contains the tomb of Adalbert, said to be the progenitor of the house of Este, to which we owe our sovereigns. It has a few tolerable pictures, among which is one by Zuccari, and another by Tintoretto; and some fine painted glass windows, and an inlaid marble pavement. The palace at Lucca presents a perfect picture of elegance and comfort. Nothing that could contribute to either has been omitted; and the sovereign of a powerful nation might deem himself well lodged in the residence of the duke of this small principality. An example of patriotism, that all princes would do well to imitate, was given in this palace. The whole of the decorations and furniture were supplied by native artists; and, I will venture to assert, could not have been better finished or designed at Paris, or London.

FLORENCE, 8th.—The approach is imposing, and prepares one for the grandeur and beauty of a town that surpasses my expectations; much as they had been raised by the various descriptions I had heard and read of it. A thousand associations of the olden

time recur to memory on viewing this noble city. The Medici, those merchant princes to some few of whom Florence owed so much, from Cosmo, the *Padre della Patria*, to the licentious, depraved, and banished Alexander, seem to be brought before us with an identity that they never were invested with while we perused their histories in cold and distant lands. Through the streets which we now pass, paced many a brave and many a dark spirit, "fit for treason, stratagem, and spoil;" and many a branch of that family, the catalogue of whose crimes, as given by the old historians, forms one of the darkest that ever made a reader shudder. Here was born Catherine and Mary de Medici, whose ambition, and reckless mode of satisfying it, have furnished so many atrocities to the page of history; and here figured Bianca Capella, more fair than chaste, whose tragic death formed a dramatic sequel to her romantic story. Here shone the lovely Eleanor of Toledo, niece to the grand duchess of that name, and wife to her profligate son, Don Pietro de Medici; who, suspecting her virtue, removed her to Caffaggioli, a country residence of his family, and there plunged a dagger in the heart he had alienated from him by a series of actions of the most open depravity. This crime was acknowledged by Francisco, his brother, then reigning duke, to Philip of Spain, who took no steps to punish it; notwithstanding that the family of the murdered victim, and in particular the Duke of Alba, evinced their just abhorrence and indignation at the ruthless deed. Here, too, dwelt the beautiful Isabella de Medici, daughter of Cosmo I., and wife to Paul Orsini, Duke of Bracciano. The rare personal attractions, and still more rare mental endowments, of this lovely and ill-fated woman, rendered her the universal favourite, as well as the acknowledged ornament of the Tuscan court. Fondly beloved by her father, he encouraged, rather than censured, her unwillingness to leave Florence, where she continued to reside until his death, notwithstanding the repeated efforts of her husband to induce her to accompany him to his home. Soon after the accession of Francisco, Orsini, maddened by the general admiration which his beautiful wife excited, and more especially by his jealousy of Troilus Ursino, a relative of his own, arrived at the court after a long absence, from Florence. He pressed her with such a show of affection to accompany him to a residence of his named Cerreto, that she yielded to his request, though not, as it is said, without a presentiment of danger: and was strangled by him while he feigned to embrace her. How are the annals of the house of Medici stained with crime, and how vividly are they recalled to memory when beholding their abodes!

Yes, Florence is rich in associations. Poets, statesmen, histo-

rians, sculptors, and painters, whose works still charm us, have bequeathed names to her that recall great and delightful images to our minds : and we forget the actual present in dreamy reveries of the past. The old structures too, that seem built to bid defiance to the ruthless destroyer, Time, take us back to their founders, and we people them anew, in imagination, with a race long passed away. Each of the palazzos remind one of their original destination, when *strength* was considered so requisite an essential in the dwellings of men not unfrequently exposed to the violence of factional feuds and foreign aggression. There is something peculiarly interesting in the appearance of these dwellings, half fortresses and half palaces. They are fraught with the history of other times, and are models of massive grandeur. I admire the Tuscan style of architecture, its broad masses and rustic bases, its deep cornices and solid architraves. Each mansion presents a picture of feudal power, in which good taste was not neglected.

9th.—I feel so much pleasure in wandering about the streets, that I have no inclination to visit the galleries until the effect of the first novelty of this place has subsided. The *Piazza del Gran Duca* is a delicious spot to saunter through ; and the portico, which occupies one side of it, may be gazed on for hours with admiration. Here is the Judith of Donatelli, represented decapitating Holofernes, admirably executed in bronze ; the Rape of the Sabines, in marble ; and the Perseus of Benvenuto Cellini, so much and so justly celebrated. Who can look on this noble statue without remembering the obstacles and difficulties under which that great artist and eccentric man executed it ? difficulties so graphically detailed by his own pen. The Palazzo Vecchio stands at the corner of the Piazza, and forms a fine feature in the picture. Here passed the most stirring events of a period pregnant with all the virtues and crimes that mark the struggle between the defenders and assailants of liberty. In front of the entrance to this massive structure are placed the colossal statues of David and Hercules ; the first by Michael Angelo, and the second by Bandinelli. How powerfully does the David display the fearless genius that created it ! — a genius that seems to have delighted in difficulties, and who loved to call into play every nerve and muscle of the frame he was forming. Michael Angelo was prodigal in his display of muscular power in his statues, and not unfrequently impaired the grandeur of their effect by it.

10th.—In no place have my thoughts been carried back to the past so forcibly as at Florence. The contests between the Bianchi and the Neri, the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, their sanguinary feuds and reckless violence, seem as if not of recent date, when I beheld the scenes where they occurred. The chaste and stately

Gualdrada, referred to by Dante when noticing her grandson Guidoguena,

"Nepote fu della buona Gualdrada,"

seemed to glide past in all the majesty of her beauty. It was of this lady that the story is related, that when the Emperor Otho IV. was present at a festival in Florence, he was struck with her rare beauty, and enquired who she was; when her father had the baseness to answer, that she was the daughter of one who, if it was his majesty's pleasure, would make her admit the honour of his salute. On overhearing this speech, she arose from her seat, and blushing, desired her father to be less liberal in his offers, for that no man should ever be allowed that favour except him who should be her husband. The emperor was delighted by her resolute modesty, and calling to him Guido, one of the bravest of his barons, gave her to him in marriage, raised him to the rank of count, and bestowed on him Crescentino and a part of the territory of Romagna as her portion. I quote the story from memory, and read it in the notes to Dante long ago.

Where is the spot in Florence that has not been stained by the blood of her hostile sons, unnaturally waging war against each other, for that omnipotent tempter and polluter of the human heart, power! Yet who does not turn from such associations to repose on gentler ones, and to dwell with a sigh of pity on the victims to such fatal feuds? The young and brave Giovanni Buondelmonte, whose life paid the forfeit of his broken vows; when forgetful of his engagement to a fair scion of the house of Amidei, he yielded to the lighter charms of one of the Donati, and was murdered by the vengeful brothers of the deserted lady while yet a bridegroom. The divine Dante, the Shakspeare of Italy, has noticed these unhappy nuptials, which were followed by so long a series of bloodshed, and led to the war between the Guelphs and Ghibellines.

"Ricorderati anche del Mosca, (1)
Che dissi, lasso, capo ha cosa fatta,
Che fu 'l mal seme della gente Tosca."

Numberless works, perused long years ago, are brought back most vividly to memory, as I saunter through the places where the scenes they described were enacted: and it seems as if youth and its memories were renewed by the vividness with which the histories that then excited such a thrilling interest are recalled to the mind.

(1) Mosca degli Uberti was the person who persuaded the kinsmen of the Amidei family to the assassination of Buondelmonte. "Dissi che chi pensava assai cose, non ne conchindeva mai alcuna, dicendo quella trista e nota sentenza, Cosa fatta Capo ha."—*Machiavelli*.

"Questa morte fu la cazione e cominciamento della maladette parti Guelfa e ibellina in Firenze."—*G. Villani*.

11th.—The flowers of Florence are considered among the most beautiful of Italy; and grow so abundantly in the environs, that the rarest, or at least those considered the rarest in our colder clime, may here be purchased for a trifle. This is a luxury to one so fond of these summer visitants as I am; and as I look at the tabels and consoles piled with them, I feel that I am indeed in a more genial, though always less beloved land than mine own. Dear, dear England, why, with so many blessings, are sunshine and equality of climate denied thee? Why are thy children exposed to such frequent and sudden changes of the atmosphere as to impair, if not destroy health?—one hour offering us the semblance of summer, and the next chilling with the blast of winter. Well might my friend, John William Warde, write from London, that “the summer had set in with its usual severity.” Yet there are people who maintain that ours is by no means a bad climate: but these are doctors and apothecaries who live by it; or wine-merchants, whose cellars are emptied in the vain and pernicious effort to counteract its effects. To me it is delightful to sit on an open terrace or balcony enjoying the balmy night air, unshawled and unpeelised, and feel it gently waving my hair, and steeping my brow with its freshness. In England a catarrh or rheumatism would be the inevitable result of such an imprudence; for the dews of night refreshing the earth, though a pretty image for a sonnet, is rather a dangerous ordeal for a delicate constitution. The nights are delicious at Florence. The moon, reflected as in a mirror, on the placid Arno; the spires and towers that rise at every side silvered with its rays, and the sounds of the guitars continually passing and repassing on the Lung-Arno, give an indescribable charm to them; which appears to be felt alike by all classes, if I may judge by the numbers of persons in the streets. The upper class refresh themselves after the Opera with a drive along the Lung-Arno; and the working class, who have been pent in during the day, stroll forth, with a guitar and a companion or two, to serenade some humble beauty; or for the mere pleasure of hearing their own music in the fresh air of these balmy nights.

12th.—The view of Florence from any of the hills that surround it is beautiful. The mixture of the brightest foliage with the most picturesque buildings, and the blue Arno winding through land, rich in the most luxuriant vegetation, now hiding itself behind a vineyard or olive grove, and then becoming revealed as it glides between fields of waving corn or verdant grass, constitutes one of the most lovely features of the scene. The Apennines have a fine effect in the distance; and look as if placed by nature to guard this favoured spot from the assaults of rude blasts, or to imprison the genial heat that renders its soil so luxuriant. There are a number

of pretty villas in the immediate vicinity of Florence, embowered by trees and flowering shrubs; and such is the clearness and purity of the atmosphere, that they can be seen at a considerable distance. The Cascine is one of the prettiest drives imaginable, and is well attended in the evenings by neatly appointed equipages, very different to the obsolete leathern conveyances I remarked at Lucca. The Florentines have adopted many of the English improvements in carriages introduced into the city by our popular minister to their court, Lord Burghersh; and the not less popular Lord Normanby, whose elegant hospitalities have made a most favourable impression on them. The Cascine is to Florence what Hyde Park is to London, or the Bois de Boulogne to Paris, the fashionable lounge; where smart equipages and beauties are displayed, acquaintances met, and fine horses, and their riders seen. This difference, however, exists between them: bouquets are sold and given—the news of the day repeated—and the *soirée* of the previous one discussed, or the coming one arranged: for at the Cascine the carriages are all drawn up *en masse*, so that the inmates may talk to, or convey messages to their acquaintance. The gentlemen ride from carriage to carriage dressed *à l'anglaise*; and are only to be distinguished from my countrymen by a greater display of politeness than the latter generally exhibit. The hat is held a second longer off the head, and the head is lowered an inch or two more when bowing to a lady than is that of an Englishman; and the countenance wears a profounder air of respectful homage. The less frequented part of the Cascine presents a very agreeable drive. The verdure of the grass, the luxuriance of the foliage, and the abundance of pheasants and hares that run across the green glades to hide themselves in the leafy coverts, make one fancy oneself many miles from a populous city. The Arno winds along one side of this beautiful park, and a delightful walk is formed on its bank.

14th.—There are few pleasures more fatiguing than that of viewing an extensive gallery of fine works of art. And the more gratified the mind has been by the objects, the greater is the sense of exhaustion experienced. I spent a considerable portion of yesterday in the gallery, and left it with my memory filled to overflowing with a chaotic mass of bright hues and finely chiselled forms, out of which only a few objects stood forth distinctly; but these are deeply engraved on my memory. Much as I have been accustomed to see good casts from the statue, the Medicean Venus surprised as well as charmed me. There is a purity, a modesty, in this inimitable work, that precludes the feelings of embarrassment with which women contemplate a nude statue in the presence of men. It is the personification of ideal loveliness, refined and spiri-

tualized from every indication of human passion,—coldly, chastely, beautiful. Not so is the celebrated picture of the Venus by Titian, which is placed immediately behind it, forming a violent contrast to its celestial-looking neighbour. This glowing picture is all of earth, its beauty being wholly voluptuous, unredeemed by any expression of intellectual refinement. Titian should have painted the Cupid Anteros by her side, to indicate that hers is the beauty that enchains the senses only; yet, on reflection, this allegorical indication is not necessary, for the whole picture explains it, breathing an atmosphere of sensuality. The Venus de' Medici must always charm women; the Venus of Titian, men.

15th.—I have been again to the gallery, and am amazed and delighted with the treasures it contains. The Dancing Faun peculiarly struck me; never was movement more happily expressed, it seems to stagger in the dance, half intoxicated by the juice of the grape and the excitement of the motion. The Niobe and her Daughters arrested my attention for a considerable time. The despair and anguish of the mother is finely expressed, but the daughters appeared to me somewhat cold and affected; as if thinking, like Cæsar, of dying with decent dignity. But the task of giving diversity and truth to sixteen expiring female figures was so difficult, that one cannot be surprised if the artist has not been quite successful; and the exquisite execution of the mother redeems the less happily-finished daughters. I again contemplated the Venus de' Medici; and found my admiration of it increased instead of being diminished. Such is its exquisite beauty, that the eye turns from the admirable statues that surround it, to dwell on this *chef-d'œuvre*. The Wrestlers, the Arrotino, the Apollino, and the Dancing Faun before noticed, are placed around the Venus. The Wrestlers display all the development of muscles and veins that their occupation requires; but as I am neither an amateur of wrestling nor a connoisseur of anatomy, this group afforded me little pleasure, although willing to admit its acknowledged merit. The Apollino is more expressive of grace than power; and as we imagine a combination of the two in the god, I was somewhat disappointed in looking for it in vain in this tasteful statue. The Arrotino has led to so many and unsatisfactory opinions among the cognoscenti, as to its true denomination and destination, that whether it be a *rémouleur*, slave, barber, or spy, I leave to those more interested in such important matters to decide. Every year furnishes some new and fanciful hypothesis on this point; each maintained with no little warmth and pertinacity by its supporters. The excellence of the work is often overlooked, in the angry discussions to which the intention of the artist who designed it gives rise; for antiquarians are more prone to engage

in hypothetical dissertations to display their own *savoir*, than to render justice to art. I might fill whole pages with the various opinions, and the as various reasons for entertaining them, which are circulated in relation to this statue; but a perusal of some, and the oral communication of others which I have been most reluctantly condemned to hear, have sufficiently fatigued my patience to deprive me of all inclination to commit any of them to paper.

16th.—Again at the gallery; making acquaintance with the faces of the Heroes of Antiquity, and comparing the expression of their countenances with the notion I had formed of them from a perusal of their histories. Alexander's physiognomy bears the impress of the impatience attributed to him, an impatience which cost Clytus his life. Cæsar's looks less vain-glorious, but more sensual. Pompey's countenance is an interesting one; and there is that in it, which was said to have been remarked in Charles I., namely, a mournful expression, as if occasioned by a presentiment of his fate. Trajan's is a stern face; the forehead low, and the features large and not finely formed; nevertheless, it is not unpleasing, and I looked in vain for any indication in it of that severity which he exercised towards the Christians; unless it might be found in the compression of the brow, which is indicative of a want of liberality of mind. My companions were amused at my fanciful hypotheses on physiognomy; and asserted that they were founded on the well-known characters of the persons on whose faces I pronounced. Yet notwithstanding their *plaisanteries*, I maintained my opinion—like a woman, and an obstinate one too; and not the less pertinaciously, because my argument was based only on fancy. Caligula and Nero were pointed out to me as proofs of the falsity of my system; for neither, it was asserted, bore in their countenances any mark of the cruelty that stained their lives. But I think differently; although I cannot go all the length of the writer of the "*Galerie Royale et Impériale*," who observes of Caligula, "*Il avait une pâleur habituelle, que le marbre semble indiquer.*" I confess I did not discover more than the ordinary whiteness of marble; but paleness being considered a certain indication of cruelty, and Robespierre having been reckoned the palest man in France, the tint may be taken as a type of this vice, when the features fail to support the system of the physiognomist.—The Mercury of John of Bologna, is the very personification of lightness and grace. It looks as if it had only alighted on earth for a minute; and that the next breath of air would waft it to the skies. There is buoyancy, if not motion, in the whole figure.

17th.—Sauntering through galleries, filled with the finest works of art, during the mornings; wandering in the afternoon through streets, to nearly each palace of which is attached some stirring

history connected with the past; and driving in the evenings in the beautiful environs of this charming city, is a delicious manner of passing one's time. The mind awakens to a new sense of enjoyment, and becomes conscious of an increased capacity for appreciating the various objects that delight, while they expand it. The novelty of the scenes, and the zest with which they are enjoyed, brings back the feelings of youth, feelings so soon blunted; when we continue to dwell in the same routine of life, and habituate ourselves to reflect only on what immediately surrounds us. The viewing other countries, and the treasures they contain, with the pleasant vista in prospective of returning to one's native land with a memory stored with agreeable images and recollections, is surely a happy condition. But even this is not without alloy; for how often, when most charmed, do we sigh for the presence of those dear to us at home, who would have enhanced our pleasures by partaking them!

What striking contrasts, when mutually compared, do the pictures of Raphael and Titian offer! yet each so beautiful in its respective style; the first realizing the ideal of female purity and softness, amounting nearly to celestial loveliness; the second all the voluptuousness of earth-born, earth-loving woman. The Madonnas of Raphael have all the simplicity of innocence, mingled with an expression of maternal tenderness, that no other painter ever yet succeeded in portraying. To these creations of his exquisite pencil, he carefully avoided giving any resemblance of the Fornarina, whose picture, painted *con amore* by her lover, respires the passionate, but unintellectual beauty, that chained his heart to earth, but precluded not his imagination from personifying the purity worthy of Heaven. Raphael could paint both styles of beauty equally well; while Titian's peculiar excellence lay only in the portraiture of the voluptuous. I refer of course only to his female portraits; for his male pictures have all the dignity and expression of intellectual power that art of the highest kind can give. A Holy Family by Michael Angelo is, by connoisseurs, pronounced to be a *chef-d'œuvre*; but is, to my taste, far from being a pleasing picture. It looks hard and laboured in the colouring; although the drawing is, like all his works, full of spirit and force. The Endymion by Guercino, is charming; and I noticed a group of young ladies descanting on its merit with all the gusto of amateurs, and the science of experienced artists. How much Parmigiano loses in estimation, when his pictures are placed near those of Correggio! the latter all natural grace; the former too often straining at effect by attitudes full of affectation. Parmigiano imparted his own mannerism to every subject on which he worked; and yet some of his pictures have charming things in them. I like

them too, because they remind me of some of Cosway's beautiful drawings, who almost redeemed the affectation of which he was accused, by the elegance with which he invested it.

19th.—The more I frequent the gallery, the more do its treasures delight me. When I behold the bright tints and glorious forms glowing as freshly as if centuries had not elapsed since they were first executed, I can hardly fancy that the cunning hands that have given them to posterity, are long mouldered in the dust; and the models from which they worked, mingled with their native clay. Beautiful art! that snatches loveliness from the rude grasp of all-devouring time, and transmits to us the charms that inspired genius to work such prodigies. We seem to commune with the mighty dead, when we look round on the works they have left us. Here are the triumphs, for which they laboured through a life often poisoned by disappointments, and clouded by cares. The reward that incited them to achieve these *chefs-d'œuvre*, if it failed to reach them when living, has at least been lavishly accorded to them since their deaths: and each succeeding year exhibits increasing crowds of strangers flocking from remote corners of the earth to dwell with delight on their works, and to offer the tribute of affection and reverence to the master spirits who created them. Raphael, Titian, Correggio, and a host of others, are no longer names vaguely known to us; but are regarded as the hosts, if not the friends, who have bidden us to banquets, where we have richly feasted, and laid by a store of grateful and beautiful recollections.

20th.—Examined the cabinet near the Tribune, appropriated to the *bijouteries* of the fifteenth century; some portions of which, the work of Benvenuto Cellini, are exquisitely beautiful; and all as costly as precious stones, gold, and rare workmanship can render them. Earth and ocean seem to have been ransacked to enrich this collection of Lilliputian treasures; which look as if formed to gratify the caprices of some spoilt child of royalty. What profanation of genius thus to employ it! when the hands that modelled the beautiful trifles that resemble fairy gifts, which I this day saw, possessed the power of producing the Perseus and Medusa. Benvenuto Cellini, in his Memoirs says, "The Duchess (1) was lavish of her caresses to me, and would gladly have had me work for her alone, and neglect the statue of Perseus, and every thing else." But although I reflect with regret on the time of a genius like Cellini having been frittered away on the *bijouterie* I beheld to-day, I confess that, with the admiration of my sex for such gems, I was inclined to covet their possession: and more than once wished that they were safely lodged in a certain antique cabinet,

(1) Eleonore de Toledo, wife of Cosimo I.

in a certain boudoir, in a certain mansion, in St. James' Square. This rare and beautiful collection contains vases of the most delicate proportions, formed of the precious metals; and of lapis-lazuli, onyx, sardonyx, agate, malachite, jasper, porphyry, and rock crystal, enriched with gold arabesque work, in which are set diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds. The whole looks as if meant to decorate the palace of some baby king, not yet out of petticoats; rather than that of persons arrived at full maturity. Such exquisite toys seem as if made to be presented to a fairy queen, and might well justify the longing of an earth-born one. What imperial lady might not desire to possess the golden vase designed by Benvenuto Cellini, and executed by the brothers Giovanni Paolo, and Domenico Poggini, which he describes as follows—"I set them to make a little golden vase, wrought with a basso-relievo of figures and other ornaments; this belonged to the Duchess, and her Excellency had it to drink water out of." Well might the Duchess have told him, when he brought her the diamond purchased of his enemy, Bernardone Baldini, that she set as high a value on the work as on the diamond, which cost twenty-five thousand crowns. Yet this same work, as Benvenuto relates, they (the Duke and Duchess) had afterwards taken from it, that the jewel might be re-set by a German, or other foreigner, in compliance with the suggestion of the envious Bernardone. No wonder, that, after having experienced the princely condescension and courtesy of the chivalrous Francis I. of France, the proud and fiery nature of Benvenuto chafed beneath the indignities heaped on him by the *tracasseries* of the Florentine court.

21st.—I entered the Gabinetto Fisico to-day, and though I only remained a few minutes in it, I carried away a sense of loathing that has not yet left me. Surely some restriction should exist to preclude women and men from examining these models together! I entered with a female companion only, but retreated when I observed men and women, some of them too, young ones, contemplating objects which, although highly useful for scientific purposes, are certainly of a character unfit for this promiscuous exhibition. It is meet that we should know that we are fearfully and wonderfully created; but not that we should witness the disgusting details of the animal economy in all its hideous and appalling nakedness and truth. What a lesson for personal vanity does this exhibition convey! yet probably few view it in this light. For me, I fear that its fearful images will recur to my memory when I behold some creature, in the zenith of youth and beauty, who almost believes she is not formed of the perilous stuff so shockingly delineated in the Gabinetto Fisico.

22nd.—Paused to-day before the portrait of my old friend

Cosway, which is among those of the artists who have presented their resemblances to the gallery. Poor Cosway ! how like, and yet how unlike the original, is this picture ! Idealized, and Parmigiano'd even as much as those charming female portraits he used to paint ; of which I have often heard him say, "I represent them not as they are, but as they ought to have been." "Alas ! poor Yorick, where be your gibes now ? your gambols ? your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table in a roar ?" How well do I remember the last day he dined with me ! when he literally did set the table in a roar, by the seriousness of countenance, yet comicality of manner with which he maintained his paradoxes. Half offended was he that some of his most valued friends who were present could doubt his startling assertions ; one of which was, that those only died, who had not made up their minds firmly to resist the grim tyrant. Lords Mulgrave and Harrington, Sir George Beaumont, General Phipps, Sir Thomas Lawrence, and Mr. Locke of Norbury, were the party ; and all laughed too heartily, I am sure, ever to forget it. I sigh when I reflect that the advanced age of some of these estimable individuals precludes the hope of their being left long to adorn the society of which they are such agreeable members. Perhaps this dread endears them still more to their friends.

23rd.—Saw the Laurentian Library to-day, which contains many rare and very valuable manuscripts. Among them is a Virgil, and the Pandects of Justinian ; some Greek and Latin classics of the 11th century ; and richly illuminated manuscripts, the colours of which are as vivid as if only recently laid on. The Missal of the Florentine Republic was the book which most interested me ; for it contains portraits of the Medici family, introduced into the margin. Many of the Greek manuscripts which were shown to me, were, I dare say, those brought to Cosimo, the, justly named, Father of his country, by Chalcondilas, Agyropyle, Lascaris, and Guzu ; who rescued these precious memorials from the flames, when, in 1453, the Turks took possession of Constantinople, and consigned them to destruction. The liberality of Cosimo de' Medici, and the encouragement he extended to literature, induced the erudite Greeks I have named, to seek protection at Florence, and to bring with them these remains of their former treasure. The esteem created in my mind by the character of Cosimo, invests his degenerate successors with an interest which their own demerits were well calculated to destroy, and softens the asperity with which they ought to be judged. A Petrarch was shown me, with portraits of the poet and his Laura, said to be drawn from life. Neither possesses any of the attributes supposed to distinguish beauty or genius ; but this may have been the fault of the artist

who has perpetuated their countenances. The finger of Galileo is among the treasures of this library. It is placed under a glass case, and points to the skies, which his daring and vigorous mind contemplated, until its mysteries were solved by him, and the wonderful phenomena of its movements explained to his contemporaries. It saddens the mind to reflect on the treatment experienced by Galileo; and makes one rejoice that the terrible engine of superstition and bigotry, the Inquisition, has been destroyed.

24th.—Saw the church of Santa Croce, which contains the tombs of Galileo, Michael Angelo, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Guicciardini, and Alfieri. That of the last, is by Canova, and is adorned by a female figure representing Italy, which has rather a theatrical effect. There is something calm and, though sad, soothing to the mind, in contemplating the last earthly resting-place of men whose works have often beguiled many an hour. The facility with which churches are entered in Italy, and the opportunity thus afforded to the living of standing by the narrow homes of the illustrious dead, are most conducive to reflections of a salutary nature. The feverish excitements of life are calmed during such visits; and we return to the busy haunts of men, less disposed to participate in, yet more charitable to, their follies. The positive enjoyment of the balmy air, blue skies, and all the charms of ever beautiful nature, are felt too with a keener zest when they are encountered after an hour or two passed in "the dim religious light" of a church, and the contemplation of the dwellings of the dead. A sentiment of pity, that they who once as keenly tasted the pleasures we now experience, are shut out for ever from them, is mingled with our feelings, and a sense of the brevity of existence is forced on us, that, to some minds, is not without a charm, though it be a mournful one.

Florence and its environs, beautiful as they are, acquire fresh attraction from the memories with which they are blended. What English visitors can look at Faesolè without remembering that our own Milton has visited it too; and commemorated it and Galileo in his *Paradise Lost*?

"His ponderous shield,
Ethereal temper, massy, large, and round,
Hung on his shoulders like the moon, whose orb
Through optic glass the Tuscan artist views
At evening from the top of Fesolè,
Or in Valdarno, to descry new lands,
Rivers, or mountains on her spotty globe."

Who can forbear dwelling with deep interest on the meeting of two such master minds as those of the "starry Galileo" and Milton, and fancying their conversation? Galileo, already with impaired vision in those eyes which had so long contemplated the heavens, and made such discoveries in their starry lore, that dazzled by the

wonders they descried, they became at a later period shrouded in darkness ; and Milton, doomed to lose his sight, which seemed to have been only granted to him long enough to have filled his glorious mind with images whose brightness never escaped from it, but embued his works with unfading light long after he himself had ceased to enjoy all physical sense of it. I love to think of this meeting, when my eyes dwell on the sunny Faesolè, and people its summit with two such spirits. I love, too, to turn to the spot where Boeaccio led his companions, to escape the ravages of the plague, and beguiled the hours by relating the Decameron ; although I wonder how, flying from a pestilence that had torn from them dear and fond ties, they could still enjoy existence, and indulge in a levity so ill suited to the time and circumstance. Mysterious and inexplicable human nature ! in which selfishness is so deeply rooted as to teach us a lesson that love deems to be impracticable—forgetfulness.

25th.—Saw the cathedral to-day, founded by Sapo, in 1298, and which boasts the magnificent cupola of Brunelleschi. The architecture of this church is different from that of all the others at Florence, and is neither Greek nor Gothic. Connoisseurs affirm it to be Roman, and to them will I leave the task of demonstration, confining myself to the simple fact, that of whatever order the architecture may be, the effect is imposing. Two portraits in this cathedral attracted my attention ; and one of them possessed a peculiarly strong interest for me—I refer to that of Dante, the Shakspeare of Italy, by Orcagna. This portrait, although but a posthumous one, cannot be viewed without strong feelings of interest ; and these are increased by reflecting, that the same people who banished the original, were afterwards proud to possess this likeness of him. The ill-treatment experienced by poets from their country would form no bad subject for a work in the hands of D'Israeli, whose contemplative and philosophical mind is so well calculated to render justice to it. How much of this ill-treatment, from the days of Dante down to those of Byron, might, if analysed, be attributed to the baleful passion of envy ? But to return to the cathedral : the other portrait is that of an Englishman, John Agesto, who fought, Condottiero-like, in the service of those who best paid, and served with the Pisans. I tried in vain to imagine some English name resembling in sound to Agesto ; but the Italians render some of our barbarous ones so much more so, that I cannot guess at his real cognomen.

Dante is as enthusiastically talked of, and more universally read in his own country, than Shakspeare is with us. We have, it is true, many who read our divine bard with the zest which so inimitable a genius merits ; but we have also still more who *talk of*, than

who can appreciate his works; and these are precisely the persons who are the loudest in their injudicious praise. But in Italy, every one with any pretension to literary acquirements, reads Dante *con amore*; and are honest in their enthusiastic commendations of him.

The cathedral contains the ashes of Brunelleschi, and of Giotto; and near to it is the Campanile, an exquisite specimen of lightness and beauty. The Baptistery, whose bronze gates were said, by no less an authority than Michael Angelo, to be worthy of being the portals to Paradise, stands close to the two former buildings; and is well worthy of observation, being enriched by sculpture from the chisels of the most eminent artists of the time of its completion. I should have given more time to the study of the Baptistery, and contemplated its beautiful gates with more pleasure, had my eyes not been attracted by an iron chain which hangs from its wall; a trophy of the victory of the Florentines over the Pisans. Close to this ungenerous memorial of defeat stand two columns of porphyry, presented by the Pisans to the Florentines, two centuries prior to the conquest of which the chain of the port of Pisa is the record; and they seem to rise reproachfully in front of this disgraceful badge of the victory achieved over their country.

26th. — All the world, that is to say the fashionable world, have left Florence for the pretty villas in its vicinity; and for Monte Nero, near Leghorn, the baths of Lucca and Pisa, which are generally resorted to in summer. I like the solitary appearance which the town has assumed during the last few days—it seems more in harmony with its character. I this day visited the church of Santa Maria Novella, the spot where Boccaccio formed the party of the actors of the Decameron,—tales whose licentiousness not even their merit as literary compositions can redeem. Yet even the licentiousness may have not been without its advantages, for, by exposing the vices which were then so openly practised in Italy, he may have contributed more to correct the demoralization he painted, than the most serious homily on them could have effected. The uninterrupted friendship between Boccaccio and Petrarch, is one of the rare examples of the duration of that sentiment between literary men, and was honourable to both. They seem to have been more exempt from the irritability peculiar to genius, than are the literati of our times. This difference, perhaps, may be accounted for by the want of critical reviews, those powerful engines for exciting passions destructive to friendship between contemporaries.

27th.—Spent several hours in the Palazzo-Pitti. Its collection of pictures is magnificent. I turned from the beautiful face of the Madonna della Seggiola, to gaze on the stern countenance of Luther, whose occupation (playing on the spinet) has not softened the

severity of its character. His wife, who listens to him, bears no trace of her monastic profession, and her portrait offers no personal attraction to excuse his having induced her to abandon it. The Three Fates, by Michael Angelo, is a powerful picture. He has represented them stern, and immutable as imagination could portray them ; with a force in their hard, dry sinews and muscles, that indicate their indestructibility. Raphael's portrait of Pope Giulio II., and of Cardinal Bibbiena, are *chefs-d'œuvre* ; so is Titian's picture of Cardinal Ippolito de' Medici. On looking at Titian's works, I have been struck by the resemblance to some of them, which those of Sir Thomas Lawrence bear. I do not, of course, mean to institute a comparison between them ; for with all my admiration of our best portrait-painter, I see the immeasurable distance between his works and those of Titian. Nevertheless it is evident, that of all the ancient masters, Titian is the one with whose pictures Lawrence has the most deeply imbued his mind, however he may have hitherto fallen short in approaching his model. The Pitti-Palace contains some of Salvator Rosa's best works ; among which is a battle, full of force, life, and energy. Salvator Rosa's genius led him to paint only the terrible or the sublime. There is no landscape of his that does not exemplify this fact ; for even in his representations of inanimate nature, some stupendous rock, yawning abyss, or blasted tree, produces this effect, even when the banditti, which he loved to introduce in them, are omitted. This propensity to paint the terrible or sublime, may be traced to have had its origin in the haunts he frequented in his youth, where Nature wore her wildest aspect, and where banditti were not unseldom seen ; adding a fearful though a picturesque effect to the composition. It would be a curious and not uninteresting speculation, to trace the peculiarities, observable in the works of the old masters, to the habits and associations of their juvenile days ; which influenced their productions as much as they invariably, though unconsciously, do the writings of authors. I love to pause before a fine picture or in the perusal of some favourite writer, and endeavour to identify what I behold with the life of the artist. I sometimes trace, or fancy I can trace, a refinement given to subjects that appertained not to them, but to the mind of the painter ; as in a book I find opinions, often previously treated by other writers, assuming a new aspect, from the peculiarity of the individual through whose mind they have passed. I like a picture or a book that awakens a fresh train of ideas, and compels reflection ; but for those works that satisfy only the eye or the reason, without exciting the imagination, I feel little interest. Rubens' fine picture, the Four Philosophers, may justly be considered one of the most perfect of his works. It is rich in colour-

ing, faultless in drawing, and full of vigour and expression. Andrea del Sarto's St. John in the Wilderness, and Fra Bartolomeo's St. Mark, are admirable works ; but among the magnificent collection of the Pitti-Palace, Vandyke loses none of his attractions, — witness his superb portrait of the Cardinal Bentivoglio. Vandyke seemed to be, of all the artists of his own time, or since, the *peintre, par excellence*, of lords and ladies, and rarely failed to convey to his canvas an air of dignity, and an expression of proud decorum, indicative of high birth and station. Bronzino's pictures please one. There is a transparency in the colouring of his flesh, that is very beautiful ; but there is much more of animal than of intellectual beauty in his women. They look as if fed on milk and the richest fruits of the earth, and as if they had never been exposed to a rude breeze. In short, they are the personifications of youth and healthful comeliness, without a care, and nearly without a thought.

28th.—Again to the Pitti-Palace. Canova's Venus does not please me. How immeasurably inferior it is to the Venus de' Medici ! I never see a female statue of his without being reminded of his first attempt having been executed in butter ; for there is an appearance of softness about them, — strange as it may be to attribute the semblance of such a quality to so hard a substance as marble, that makes them look as if modelled by the hand in some malleable substance, rather than chiseled in marble. There is something affected and meretricious, too, in the air and attitude of his female statues, which conveys the notion that his models have been taken from the Opera House, ere they had lost their roundness of contour by excess of dancing. They look languishing and coquettish ; and seem conscious of their nudity and their charms, rather than really modest. Yet Canova works marble as no other sculptor of modern times has done. The very appearance of softness on which I have remarked, is a proof of his rare excellence in his art ; and it is only to be regretted that he did not select models more free from affectation, and with less of the *air petite maitresse*. How many recollections of the olden time are awakened by the apartments in the Pitti-Palace ! many of which have been the scenes of such stirring events in the lives of the family who enriched it with treasures of art. Hither it was that Cosimo, the first Duke of the house of Medici, removed, that he might exhibit the vanity and ostentation which formed such striking features in his character, more splendidly than in the residence which reminded his subjects of the liberty of which he had deprived them. Here it was that his Duchess, Eleonore de Toledo, gave birth to offspring whose crimes entailed no less misery on themselves than on others. From this palace went forth that gorgeous procession, the first exhibition of his ambition to play the sovereign, on the occasion of the

baptism of his first-born, Mary; when the Abbess of the celebrated Convent of Marata, followed by one hundred ladies of the most ancient and noble houses of Florence, habited in their richest robes and jewels, accompanied the infant to the baptismal font. Here it was that, in possession of enormous wealth, rank, station, and consideration, he pined for—what? To have precedence of the Duke of Ferrara, and to have the title of Grand attached to his Duchy. Poor human nature! never to be satisfied—ever desiring some fancied good—

“That little something unpossessed,
Corrodes and leavens all the rest.”—PRIOR.

In this palace was solemnized the marriage of Lucretia, the third daughter of Cosimo, with the Duke of Ferrara; and hither was brought the body of his second son, the Cardinal John, murdered as was believed, by the hand of his brother Garcia. In one of these vast apartments the body was laid in state, the face covered; and the wretched father became the executioner of Don Garcia, having stabbed him to the heart, as he was demanding pardon on his knees, in presence of his unhappy mother, who in vain tried to prevent the fearful catastrophe. The superstitious narrators of this event assert, that Don Garcia denied the deed; and that Cosimo having forced him to approach the body of his murdered brother, the blood gushed afresh from the wounds of the corse, which was considered by the father to be so irrefragable a proof of the guilt of Don Garcia, that he slew him on the spot. Eleonore, the wretched mother, followed her children to the grave in a few days, having died of a broken heart. This domestic tragedy was generally credited, and propagated by the multitude, notwithstanding that every thing was done to have it believed that the brothers perished of the plague, which at that period had caused many deaths. Cosimo's own letters to his eldest son, Francisco, then in Spain, detailing all the circumstances of the illness and deaths of his sons and wife, are very curious; for they are so exceedingly circumstantial as to convey a notion that he must have had some strong motive for entering into them at a period when his bereavement was so very recent. Here it was that Cosimo, following the example of Charles V., resigned the reins of empire to his son, Prince Francisco, who became regent; and in this palace received his ill-fated bride, the Archduchess Jane of Austria, whose life was one continued scene of wounded pride and jealousy, occasioned by the publicly displayed preference of her husband to the fair but frail Bianca Capello. Cosimo, too, though advanced in years, was not insensible to the tender passion; for he yielded his affections to Eleonore de Albizzi, a young and

beautiful girl, descended from one of the most ancient families in Florence. His attachment to this young person alarmed the Regent, his son, who, fearful that he might marry her, and forgetful of his own more culpable conduct with Bianca Capello, became the censor of his father. He employed his valet, Sforza Almeni, to become a spy on the Grand Duke, and even remonstrated with him on the subject; which occasioned Cosimo to give way to so ungovernable a rage that, in this palace, he plunged his sword in the breast of Almeni, and some say, was even disposed to use violence towards his son. By this mistress he had a child, named Don John, on whom he settled a considerable fortune; and having given a large dowry to the mother, he bestowed her hand in marriage on Carlo Panciatichi. Shortly after this period Cosimo formed a *liaison* with Camilla Martelli, daughter of a Florentine gentleman of ruined fortune, but of high birth. Some scruples of a conscientious nature led him to consult the Pope Pius V., who exhorted him to atone for the sin he had committed, by marrying the object of his attachment. This marriage was privately celebrated in the Pitti-Palace, in presence of the relatives of the lady, and a few confidential favourites of the Grand Duke. To conciliate the Regent, and his proud wife, Cosimo declared that Camilla should never have the treatment, nor the title of Grand Duchess. Shortly after the celebration of the marriage, he retired from the Court with his bride, and an infant daughter, born previously to their nuptials, and took up his residence in the country. This ill-assorted marriage, however it might have satisfied his conscientious scruples, destroyed the peace of his old age; for Camilla, vain, ambitious, and turbulent, was at no pains to conceal from him that her attachment had been founded only on ambitious motives. Disappointed in not having been acknowledged Grand Duchess, she treated him with even more than indifference, with marked dislike. Her neglect of his personal comfort, when reduced by repeated attacks of gout and apoplexy to nearly a state of helplessness, induced the Regent to have him removed to Florence. Here, in this palace, having lost not only the use of his limbs, but his speech, he lingered for a few months, making the walls echo with the sighs and groans wrung from him by the recollection of the past, and the dread of the future; for he retained his senses to the last. It was probably this example of the ill-assorted union of Cosimo that led to the subsequent and more disgraceful conduct of Francisco. How often have these apartments witnessed the revels of Bianca Capello, and her infatuated lover! and the anguish, rage, and jealousy of the Duchess Jane, who, treated with perfect indifference by her husband, and with insolence by his favourite, had neither the art to lead him

back to his duty, nor the patience to witness his open breach of it.

30th.—Saw the Countess of Albany to-day. She retains no trace of beauty to justify Alfieri's passion for her; but the truth is, poets require not to find loveliness in the objects of their attachment, as they can endow them with an imaginary beauty, more brilliant than reality can often display; and as all are disposed to admire the gifts they confer, poets are generally more devoted to imaginary charms than real ones.

I was told an amusing anecdote to-day, *à propos* of the Countess of Albany. "Who is this lady, about whom people show such an interest?" asked a female compatriot of mine of an acquaintance of the same sex, and also of the same country. "Why, is it possible that you do not know? Well, for my part, I thought every one was aware that the Countess of Albany, as they call her, is the widow of King Charles I., and the lady with whom the celebrated Ariosto the poet was so long, and so desperately enamoured." It was thus that the Princess of Stolberg, Countess of Albany, and widow of the exiled James Stuart, was described by a lady who professed to believe that every one knew all about her! Various are the stories related of the brutality and *grossièreté* of James Stuart—this unworthy scion of an unhappy house; whose conduct to his wife was so abominable, as to compel her to seek the seclusion of a monastery to escape his society. The attachment of Alfieri to this lady continued to his death, and so great was her influence over him, that the *sauvagerie* of his manners, so much complained of by others, was seldom, if ever, visible in her presence.

The genius of Alfieri hardly redeems the eccentricity of his character, of which innumerable anecdotes are given by his contemporaries. Nor was he at any pains to subdue, or to conceal, the petulance for which he was so remarkable. Haughty, even to insolence, he treated society with a contempt, the display of which indicated a greater degree of courage than of prudence; and betrayed that his bad opinion of it originated more in an undue and overweening self-esteem, than in a just knowledge of that which he contemned. I think there is a great similarity between the characters of Alfieri and Byron. The difference observable in them was created by the influence of their respective countries and habits; for had Byron been born an inhabitant of Pyremont, and a contemporary of Alfieri, I think that he would have indulged in most, if not all, the eccentricities that marked the Italian poet. The same impatience of control, the same violence of temper, a similar partiality for animals, and a similar respect for the distinctions of rank, characterise both: but all

these peculiarities are softened in Byron by the increased civilization and refinement of our times.

Saw the Capella del Depositi to-day. A monument of the tasteless vanity of its founders. Here the most precious marbles and costly gems have been brought from every quarter of the world to decorate the last abode of mortality. It is like dressing a corpse with jewels, which only serves to take from the solemnity of death, without concealing any of its sad reality. This useless waste of wealth indisposes the mind for the reflections to which a place designed for the interment of the dead should give rise, and excites a contemptuous pity to see vanity outliving the entombed. The walls of this chapel are encrusted with marbles of every hue, and their diversity reminds one of a patchwork quilt, or of a tailor's book of patterns.

The Sacristia Nuova contains the splendid monuments by Michael Angelo, erected to Giuliano and Lorenzo de Medici. Nothing can exceed the solemn beauty of the figure of Night, which is placed at one side of the sarcophagus, while one of Day confronts it on the other. This last statue, though unfinished, possesses all the vigour for which the works of the great sculptor are remarkable; but Night breathes the very soul of melancholy contemplation, and fixes the attention by its depth of repose. One turns again and again to gaze on this exquisite statue, which addresses itself most powerfully to the imagination. The other monument has two figures, representing Dawn and Twilight, both worthy the chisel of Buonarrotti; but Night fascinated me so much, that I could not give these figures the portion of attention which was their due.

Saw Bartolini's studio, which is filled with busts of the English. Every lord and commoner, who has passed through Florence during the last few years, has left here a memorial of his visit; and every lady who had ever heard that she had a good profile (and Heaven knows how seldom the assertion was true), has left a model of it on the dusty shelves of Bartolini. The great love of the English for portraits, is by foreigners attributed to a more than ordinary degree of vanity; while its source might with greater truth be traced to a more amiable motive, to that of family affection. Many are the busts at Bartolini's that might serve to illustrate my hypothesis; for nothing but the desire of gratifying some beloved object, could have induced the originals of them to bequeath to posterity such countenances as affection alone could contemplate with pleasure. Elderly gentlemen with double chins, resembling the breast of the pelican, and protuberant stomachs, requiring a double portion of marble in their representation; with wigs concealing half the organs, by the developement of which phrenologists

judge of the intellectual powers; and coats that seem to have been invented to disfigure human beings, meet the eye in this studio. And portly matrons too, are ranged in rows, with busts, exuberant as those which Rubens loved to lavish on his canvas; and tresses so luxuriant, as to convey the impression that they belonged to the original, only because she had bought them. Young ladies, with compressed waists, and drooping ringlets, looking all like sisters; and young gentlemen, with formal faces, and straight hair, confront one at every step. But among them, are busts with features so delicately moulded, and heads so classically shaped, that they maintain the pre-eminence for beauty, accorded to England over all other countries. Bartolini is a very clever sculptor, and some of his works justify the high reputation he has acquired.

To-morrow we depart for Rome.

SIENA, *July 1st.*—The country between Florence and this place, disappointed me. The road is hilly, and the views it commands do not compensate for its tediousness. A want of trees is the general defect of Tuscan scenery; and the stunted appearance of those to be found, do not atone for their scarcity. I like this town, gloomy though it be, and its cathedral has more than realized my expectations. It is a superb specimen of the Lombard style of architecture, but bearing various marks of the florid gothic. Cased on the exterior, as well as in the interior, with black and white marble, a motley mixture which, though costly, injures the general effect, it resembles an edifice constructed with lub and spade cards, or covered with backgammon boards. The cathedral contains some precious fragments of antiquity, consisting of a pedestal, enriched with finely executed bassi-rilievi, and a pillar, on one side of which is represented the labours of Hercules; and on the other, an equestrian figure of admirable workmanship. A companion has been made to this beautiful column; and the two serve to support the architrave of a door opening into an adjoining chapel. But the modern pillar is so immeasurably inferior to its antique neighbour, that it may well be said of them, that they are paired, but not matched. Near the principal entrance of the church, stands an antique vase of rare beauty; the interior ornamented with fish, executed in alto-rilievo of exquisite finish. A companion has also been made for this vase, but so inferior, as only to serve to institute comparisons by no means favourable to modern sculpture. The pulpit is of marble, and forms a fine ornament to the cathedral, being of excellent design, and faultless execution. It is supported by pillars, and ornamented with rilievi representing different events in the life of our Saviour. The vault of the nave is painted blue, and studded with stars; and round the cornice are ranged busts of the Popes. We looked in vain for that of Pope Joan, said to

have been among the number, and to have had the following inscription :—Johannes VIII. Fœmina de Angliæ ; but neither bust nor inscription did we see. Pious Catholics not only assert the story of a female Pope to be a mere fable, but indignantly reproach those who seem to doubt its being an invention of the enemy, to throw discredit on the papal see. Certain it is, that those writers who lived nearest to the period when Joan is said to have filled the high office, mention nothing of the curious and diverting adventures attributed to her. Marianus Scotus, who wrote two hundred years after her time, is supposed to have been the first author who mentioned her, and all he said, if indeed he said it, was, that to Leo IV. succeeded Joan, a woman who held the see two years, five months, and four days. Many historians assert that Benedict succeeded Leo, which, if true, refutes the tale, for it is known that Nicholas succeeded Benedict, and Hadrian Nicholas, so no interregnum is left to be filled up by Joan. The reputed adventures of this heroine, are as amusing as they are improbable, and are given at length in Bower's lives of the Popes.

The profusion of decoration lavished on the cathedral is truly surprising, but serves rather to distract than to gratify the attention of the beholder. Columns, with foliage twined round them, grotesque figures innumerable; allegorical groups resembling the phantasms of a night-mare; and the oft-repeated images of lions tearing lambs, meet the eye at every side, producing that satiety which a multiplicity of ill-assorted ornaments never fails to occasion. The pavement here is very remarkable, being not tessellated, but resembling marqueterie. It is of white marble, with grey inlaid; and both are cemented with black mastic. This species of work is called *pietra commessa*. The subjects are chiefly scriptural, with a strange mixture of symbolical and classical emblems; saints and sybils being mingled with lions, elephants, and dragons, presenting altogether an incongruous appearance. Many artists were employed on this work, but the principal parts are said to have been executed by Domenico, Becafumi, or Mecherino. The animals represent the different cities in alliance with Siena :—the elephant of Rome, the dragon of Pistoia, and the lions of Florence. A covering of board, which has several locks, has been placed to protect the parts of the pavement most injured by time; and is only removed to satisfy the curiosity of those whose rank, or purse, can command its gratification. The portion of the pavement beneath the cupola, represents the Sacrifice of Abraham; which has greater force of expression than beauty of design.

The Chigi Chapel contains more than the usual quantity of marble, gilding, and bronze, lavished on such places in Italy, where a gorgeous display of finery seems to be considered a fitting offering

to the Most High. There is something very repugnant to English feelings in this theatrical exhibition, in a temple dedicated to the Divinity; but the Italians like, and are proud of it. In the Chigi Chapel is the Magdalene of Bernini, a statue in which the contrition of the penitent has not impaired the beauty of the sinner. One of our party made this remark aloud; on which our cicerone with *naïveté* replied, that probably the sculptor had copied a model who had only lately begun to repent. If, however, the Magdalene shows little marks of mortification in the flesh, a picture of St. Jerome, which is near it, displays all the symptoms of it; for never was there a representation more expressive of ascetic endurance. The Library, or Sacristy, contains the celebrated antique group of the Graces, which, though greatly mutilated, still preserves enough of beauty to justify its reputation. The centre figure has lost its head, but so easy is its attitude, and so round is the contour of the form, that it attracts as much admiration as many other fair ladies win, without heads; or, at least, without the intellects that should fill them. The walls of the Sacristy are decorated by ten large pictures in fresco, by Pinturicchio, from designs by Raphael. They represent the remarkable events in the life of Pius II. It is asserted that Raphael painted, as well as designed, some of these pictures; but if so, his pencil, at that period, possessed little of the grace and exquisite purity which afterwards characterised it. These paintings are remarkable for nothing but a vividness of colour, which even time has not succeeded in mellowing.

The only books in the library are a few volumes of sacred music in manuscript, on vellum, beautifully illuminated; the labours of a monk, whose patience deserves no less applause than his skill, for the time employed to paint these embellishments must have surely tried it severely. The fountain at Siena is visited by all travellers, who taste its sparkling water, immortalised by the praise of Dante.

The celebrated picture of the Sibyl, by Peruzzi, at Fonte Giusta, fully justifies Lanzi's commendation. It is full of a solemn inspiration, worthy the prediction (the birth of Christ to Augustus) which she is represented as uttering. The Piazza del Campo has an imposing effect, and reminds one of old pictures representing the scene of ancient games. The Palazzo-Publico is appropriated to different uses, as heterogeneous as can be well imagined; one portion being assigned to the courts of law, another to the theatre, and a prison fills the rest—a strange union! where, beneath one roof, pleasure is encouraged, crime judged, and criminals incarcerated.

The earthquakes of 1797 have left ineffaceable traces of their power at Siena: the Dominican Church was much injured. We vainly looked in this edifice for the Madonna of Guido da Siena, which I was very desirous to see, as being one of the few speci-

mens remaining of so ancient a date, and as being celebrated for the beauty of its expression. The Sala del Consistorio has some frescos by Mecherino, remarkable for the skill displayed by that artist in the foreshortenings; and also possesses a few other pictures, but not worthy of notice. Marks of the earthquake are visible in the Sala del Consistorio, and its pictorial decorations; which serve the cicerone with an excuse for any fault found with the latter, as he attributes every defect to that cause. The Sienese are proud of their city having given birth to two Popes, Gregory VII., and Alexander III.; for not only did our cicerone refer to it, but our host reminded us of the fact with evident complacency. Of Gregory especially, he spoke with an unction that proved how much he admired that scourge of kings, who supported the papal dignity with all the *fiercé* of a despotic sovereign, rather than with the meekness of a Christian Pontiff. The boundless ambition and haughtiness of this man were never surpassed; in proof of which witness his conduct to Henry IV., Emperor of Germany. Nor was Alexander III. deficient in the ambition and *fiercé* that characterised his townsman, Gregory VII., for of the latter quality his conduct to the Emperor Frederic at Venice, furnishes an irrefragable evidence; when he compelled that monarch to prostrate himself on the earth before him, and, as some assert, set his foot on his neck.

RADICOFANI, 3rd.—Nothing can be more cheerless and dreary than the route between Siena and this place, unless it be Radicofani itself, which is as sterile and gloomy a spot as ever traveller was condemned to contemplate. The marks of its volcanic character, scattered around in huge and shapeless masses of rock, and the brown and barren soil of the patches of earth left exposed, give the whole place an air of desolation that weighs down the spirits of those who gaze on it. And well does the inn harmonise with the savage scenery around it, for it is wretched beyond description! The very climate here partakes of the bleakness and chilling influence of the landscape; and, as wrapped in an India shawl and thick pelisse, I sit waiting in the comfortless apartment, which not even a pile of blazing wood can warm, I ask if this can indeed be Italy? It was only yesterday that, basking in the sunshine, we felt the heat oppressive; and now we experience the cold of a northern winter. How trying would such a rapid change of climate be to an invalid sent from England, and its many comfortable substitutes for a genial atmosphere, to seek the benefit of a milder climate! Few under such circumstances could escape the baleful influence of Radicofani.

On our route hither, we passed through Buon Convento, as wretched a place as the deed committed in it; and which has be-

queathed its name to posterity. I refer to the poisoning of the Emperor Henry VII. through the medium of the Sacrament, administered by a Dominican friar. The reflections to which a crime of so dark a dye gives rise, are rendered still more gloomy by the view of the wild and sterile aspect of the scene where it occurred; and this savage aspect pervades nearly the whole route from Buon Convento to Radicofani, which looks as if created to be the abode of banditti.

Between Radicofani and Rome, the Lake Bolseno and the fine woods that surround it, were the only attraction. This beautiful lake is supposed to occupy the site of the ancient Volscinium. Some of the forests that bordered the road, were cut down by order of Napoleon, to dislodge the hordes of banditti which infested them; and the trees, now stripped of their leafy honours, lie scattered around. We noticed a cavern cut in a steep rock, between which and the road, a narrow but thick wood intervened. Two apertures, forming a door and window, had been ingeniously formed in the rock; and this rude cavern served as the abode of a band of brigands whose ferocity rendered a journey on this road an undertaking of no little danger.

At Orvieto, celebrated for the wine to which it gives its name, we were surrounded by not less than half a dozen persons with flasks of it which they loudly and repeatedly pressed us to purchase; while a troop of mendicants, as loudly vociferated their appeals to our charity, in all the varied tones of supplication; one party urging the beneficial effect of their wine on the stomach, and the other the effect to be derived to the soul from charity.

At Montefiascone, also celebrated for its vintage, similar entreaties to buy assailed us; and our courier, who was addressed as "eccellenza," was offered, in our presence, the bribe of a couple of bottles, if he would recommend us to purchase some. Viterbo seen from a distance, has an imposing effect. When we entered it, a funeral procession was passing, which presented to our eyes a singular spectacle. The streets through which the funeral advanced, were lined with monks of all the different religious orders. Grey, blue, black, and white penitents marched slowly along, all wearing cowls, through which holes were cut for the eyes; and a vast number of men and boys dressed in white, with similarly perforated cowls, were placed at intervals, each troop bearing a banner of his order, and a badge on his arm. Every individual carried either a human skull or bone in one hand, and a lighted serge in the other. The grotesque and disgusting appearance of these bearers of the frail remnants of mortality was striking; and the quantity of skulls and bones conveyed the impression that a whole

cemetery had been rifled to furnish them. The face of the dead was exposed, and completed the fearful picture.

ROME, 5th.—The first view of the Eternal City, burst on us from the hill above Baccano, and notwithstanding a pre-determination not to indulge in the enthusiasm peculiar to female travellers, I confess it made my heart beat quicker, and I was forced to suppress the expressions of delight that rose to my lips. The clear bright atmosphere, lending to all beneath it a portion of its beauty, with the cupola of St. Peter's shining in the distant horizon, formed a picture never to be forgotten; and the flat and deserted Campagna, spreading far around, added to, instead of diminishing, its sublimity. Until we reached the Ponte Molle, I saw nothing that indicated the approach to a great city. All was silence and solitude; and the few clumps of shrubs, that occasionally skirted the road, seemed to us as untenanted by birds, as the country around was by people. The Tiber, as seen at the Ponte Molle, agreeably surprised me; for instead of being a narrow and turbid stream, as I had been taught to expect, it showed itself as a bold and rapid river, somewhat yellow in its tint it is true, but nevertheless a considerable river, and not a stream.

No sooner had we passed the Porta del Popolo, than the contrast between the nearly deserted country we had so lately traversed, and the crowded street we had entered, became striking. It was evening, and the Corso was filled with carriages, occupied by gaily-dressed ladies, and by cavaliers, who caracolled their horses past them. Many of the cavalcade had proceeded nearly to the Porta del Popolo to gaze on the dusty equipages; attracted by the clacking of the whips of the postilions, and that of our courier. There was something discordant to my feeling, in the gaiety of the scene. It was not thus that I wished my first impression of Rome to be taken: I had pictured to myself silent and deserted streets, through which only a few priests were to be seen pacing along, or the rumbling carriage of a cardinal, conveying his eminence to his habitual *soirée*. Strange, that the Eternal City, its imposing ruins, and magnificent St. Peter's, should have so little influence over the minds of the gay throng I saw, that they flocked to the Corso as eagerly as if they were inhabitants of Paris seeking their accustomed evening drive in the Champs Elysées, or Bois de Boulogne. I wonder how long a residence at Rome would be requisite before I could become as insensible to the solemn associations the place now calls up in my mind. But to bed—to dream of Rome, and to awake, to find myself its inmate.

6th.—“Oh, Rome! my country! city of the soul!
The orphans of the heart must turn to thee,

Lone mother of dead empires! and control
 In their shut breasts their petty misery.
 What are our woes and sufferance? Come, and see
 The cypress, hear the owl, and plod your way
 O'er steps of broken thrones and temples: Ye!
 Whose agonies are evils of a day—

A world is at our feet as fragile as our clay."

These beautiful lines embody the sentiment, with which every feeling mind must contemplate Rome. I experienced their truth to-day, when driving round the everlasting city, and gazing on the wrecks of her fallen grandeur; and not even the bright and cloudless skies that canopied them, though the influence of a pure atmosphere on the spirits cannot be denied, could dispel the mournful reflections to which they gave birth. Yes, truly, the ills of mortals seem light, and transient as their brief existence, when compared with the ruin and desolation of this City of the Dead; and well might one feel something approaching to shame in indulging personal grief, when surrounded by the wrecks of ages. Is it this sentiment of sympathy that has drawn hither so many deposed sovereigns? for, from the luckless Stuarts, to the no less luckless royalty of Spain, and down to the Bonapartes, Rome has been a favourite residence with those who have fallen from greatness.

The mournful contemplations awakened by this wonderful city, are indescribable. They have nothing of a selfish character, unless it be, that when indulging in them, a mysterious sympathy is experienced; as if there was a powerful analogy between the ruins we behold, and the fate reserved for nations now flourishing, as this once great people flourished. It is thus that we, insects of a day, dare not anticipate the wreck of our country, though we know that we shall have passed away, ages and ages, before Time shall have wrought on her the inevitable destruction the ruthless destroyer works on all.

The contrast between the blue and cloudless sky, and the mouldering ruins that everywhere meet the eye in Rome, has something that engenders sadness in the mind. The bright firmament looks as if smiling in mockery at the scene beneath it; and glorying that, while the proudest works of man are crumbled to the dust by time, or not less barbarous destroyers, the heavens still sail on in endless splendour over the wrecks of ages. This dissonance between the sky and earth, makes me feel as I once did, when I turned from a bright sunshine, to look on one who could never more feel its warmth; and I could have apostrophised it reproachfully for not veiling its brightness, in pity, if not in sympathy to my grief.

7th.—Last night we went to see the Coliseum by moonlight, the

true time for viewing it to advantage. Its vastness, its silence, and its decay, appeal most powerfully to the feelings, and when tinged by the silvery beams of the orb of night, its effect is truly sublime.

“ A ruin—yet what ruin ! from its mass
Walls, palaces, half-cities, have been rear'd ;
Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass
And marvel where the spoil could have appear'd.
Hath it indeed been plunder'd, or but clear'd ?
Alas ! developed, opens the decay,
When the colossal fabric's form is near'd :
It will not bear the brightness of the day,
Which streams too much on all years, man have reft away.

“ But when the rising moon begins to climb
Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there ;
When the stars twinkle through the loops of time,
And the low night-breeze waves along the air
The garland-forest, which the gray walls wear,
Like laurels on the bald first Cæsar's head ;
When the light shines serene but doth not glare,
Then in this magic circle raise the dead :
Heroes have trod this spot—'tis on their dust ye tread.”

Byron has afforded a better notion of the Coliseum, in his exquisite lines on it in the Fourth Canto of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, than all who have written on it, before or since. He gives us the reflections of it, in the mirror of his own mind, so powerfully, so beautifully depicted, that no one acquainted with our language, or capable of appreciating our poetry, can ever visit the Coliseum without remembering the verses, and feeling their truth. When we ascended to the gallery, and looked down on the arena, the moonbeams were clothing in silvery radiance one of the votive altars erected in the interior ; and the large cross which crowned it was invested with a lustre that rendered it a conspicuous object, and added much to the effect of the picture. Each individual of our party seemed impressed with the magic of the scene, and the few words spoken were uttered in whispers ; as if we feared to disturb the holy calm of the place, or to awaken a profane echo in such a spot. To how many reflections did this visit give birth ! each and all pregnant with associations of the past. The events of bygone ages seemed unrolled before my mental vision ; and there stood the cross, blessed symbol of faith ! bright with the moonbeams playing over its surface, to draw the mind from gloomy cogitations of the past, to anticipations of a more cheering future. The poor monk who guards the altars of the Coliseum, profited by the frame of mind induced by the place. His appeal to our charity was a speechless, but an irresistible one. He bowed his head on his breast, and timidly held forth a plate for our offerings ; and when they were made, looked up to the

heavens, as if invoking the benediction his lips did not utter. He seemed, like us, to feel the influence of the scene, and to fear to break its solemnity; and our benefaction was, perhaps, more liberal on that account.

Rome is so deserted at this season, owing to the well-founded dread of malaria, that few strangers are to be met in its solitary streets. The Duchess of Devonshire is one of the few, and is said to be superintending some excavations which the papal government have permitted her to undertake. She is much beloved and respected here; and expends large sums of money in bringing to light, treasures of antiquity that, without her enterprising spirit and means of indulging it, might remain buried in oblivion.

8th.—St. Peter's. This is indeed a temple worthy of the Divinity. Its vastness, its grandeur, and above all, the exquisite beauty of its proportions, strike the senses with so profound an admiration, that the sentiment engendered by the first view is one of a deeply religious nature. The sun was streaming brilliantly through the gold-tinted glass of the Tribuna when we entered; and, as its beams fell on many a gorgeous picture in mosaic, which glittered beneath them with prismatic hues, and on masses of marble and gilding, giving to them a new splendour, the whole edifice looked as if illuminated by the glorious orb of day, to do honour to the *Most High*. No individual of our party uttered a single exclamation, though the heart of each was filled with wonder and admiration, and the imagination, that most insatiable of all the mental organs, was fully satisfied; nay, more—its highest anticipations were realized. To examine any portion of this splendid temple *en détail* at the first visit to it would be impossible, for any one who passionately admires the glorious effect produced by the *ensemble*. The eyes drink in the wondrous *coup-d'œil*, and the mind luxuriates in the delicious draught. The contrast, too, between this magnificent fane, glowing in all its pristine grandeur, and the wrecks of former ages with which Rome is filled, adds to the wonder and admiration with which it is beheld. The Coliseum appeals to the memory, and to the heart; but St. Peter's addresses itself to the imagination, which it excites and elevates almost to ebriety. Though the church was nearly empty, and the few in it were occupied in examining its pictures and monuments, it required little exertion of fancy to people it with processions of white-stoled and golden-vestured priests, leading along the tiara'd pope, with flowing robes; while gold and silver censers flung high the incense offered up before him. The pealing organ seemed to send forth its swelling notes, which were echoed through the lofty dome, and unnumbered voices sang choral hymns, which at intervals burst into loud and triumphal hosannahs, and then sank into

low and plaintive sounds. There was magic in the scene, and in the imaginings it called up. Nor did its influence subside until I found myself standing in the court of the church, in front of the obelisk ; and saw the fountains throwing up their silvery showers, to which the sunshine lent the brightest rainbow dyes, and heard the crystal waters falling into the granite basin with a gentle murmur, which alone broke the silence that reigned around.

9th.—Spent many hours in the Museum of the Vatican to-day—what inexhaustible treasures of art does it enshrine ! The mind becomes confused and agitated at beholding, for the first time, the wondrous riches contained in this magnificent collection. The most stoical person that artifice ever schooled, or insensibility nurtured, could not maintain the *nil admirari* system in this Museum ; where amazement and admiration await every step, as gallery after gallery, and hall after hall are paced, the eyes wandering from one treasure to another, fatigued by the multiplicity of objects that attract their gaze. Though I stopped several hours in the Museum, I carried away no distinct image in my mind, save that of the Apollo of Belvedere, which has surpassed my expectations. The noble dignity of the countenance, and the exquisite proportion of the figure, cannot be described. While contemplating this inimitable statue, I almost wondered how the French had courage to lay their sacrilegious hands on it, when they tore it from this, its fitting shrine, to transport it to Paris. Its haughty and godlike scorn should have stayed their profane intentions. A confused mass of the rarest works of art, the riches of bygone centuries, floated in my memory on leaving the Vatican ; and the vivid recollection of the Apollo alone convinced me that I had not awaked from some gorgeous dream. How the Louvre sinks into insignificance when compared with the Vatican ! The blue skies and pure air seem to respect its treasures, and they borrow fresh charms from the clear atmosphere that surrounds them. It would require months to habituate a person to the examination of this wonderful collection ; and I anticipate with delight my return to Rome, when a protracted *séjour* will enable me to spend many a day in the Vatican. We scarcely paused to admire the frescos of Raffaele in the chambers and Loggia, so fatigued were our senses by the wonder excited by the objects in the Museum. Had any one told me that I should merely look *en passant* at the works of him, the inspired painter of Urbino, I would have refused credence to the assertion,—yet this has been the case.

10th.—The Pantheon—

“ Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime—
 Shrine of all saints and temple of all gods,
 From Jove to Jesus—spared and blest by time ;
 Looking tranquillity, while falls or nods

Arch, empire, each thing round thee, and man plods
 His way through thorns to ashes—glorious dome!
 Shalt thou not last? Time's scythe and tyrants' rods
 Shiver upon thee—sanctuary and home
 Of art and piety—Pantheon! pride of Rome!

Relic of nobler days, and noblest arts!
 Despoil'd yet perfect, with thy circle spreads—
 A holiness appealing to all hearts—
 To art a model; and to him who treads
 Rome for the sake of ages, Glory sheds
 Her light through thy sole aperture; to those
 Who worship, here are altars for their heads;
 And they who feel for genius may repose
 Their eyes on honour'd forms, whose busts around them close."

Byron has left nothing to be said of the Pantheon except by matter-of-fact travellers, who may give its dimensions, with all that is known of its history; and antiquaries, who love to establish some hypothesis relative to it, not so much with a view to throw a light on the subject, as to extinguish the light thrown by their predecessors or contemporary *frères du métier*. I never visit any of the places on which Byron has written, without involuntarily repeating to myself the lines: and it may well be considered as not the least of the poetical triumphs he has achieved that his name and his verses will be associated with the Eternal City and its treasures as long as our language shall last.

Drove on the Monte Pincio* and in the gardens of the Villa Borghese. Rome is nowhere seen to greater advantage than from the former, particularly from that part in front of the Villa Medici, where a vista is artificially formed by the trees. There the castle of St. Angelo, and St. Peter's form fine features in the view; the cupola of this last lifting its stately head to the blue and cloudless skies, that throw it into a beautiful relief. The angel too, on the top of the castle of St. Angelo, has a fine effect, floating, as it were, in an atmosphere of the purest æther; its wings expanded as if to support it in the air. The gardens of the Villa Borghese, formal and dusty though they be, present an agreeable promenade; and, even now that the season has driven strangers away, are not deserted, as all the carriages to be seen about Rome are sure to be met here. The villa itself is a perfect model of the Italian notion of one. Enriched with objects of taste and *virtù*, it has all the appliances for passing away the sultry hours of a southern summer's day, in the *dolce far niente* in which Italians delight; but contains no library, or sleeping-rooms. Painted ceilings, frescoed walls, alti and bassi rilievi, statues and pictures, are seen at every side; but the want of comfort, so evident in all the apartments, destroys the notion of the villa being intended

for aught more than a show-house ; one of those sinecures consigned to a custode, who exhibits it to strangers for a few pauls.

11th.—The Capitol, after the Vatican, appears to little advantage. Its exterior disappoints ; owing, I suppose, to the exaggerated expectations formed from our juvenile associations with it ; and the interior, notwithstanding that it contains treasures of art, does not exhibit them to advantage. One object rivetted my attention—the Dying Gladiator. Its own transcendent merit would have achieved this, but the poetry of Byron has invested it with increased interest. One forgets all the tiresome disquisitions of Nibby relative to whether the Gladiator be, or be not a Gaul, the moment the eye falls on the face of this most admirable and affecting statue : we remember only the suffering, more mental even than physical, so wonderfully portrayed ; and the passionate conception of the poet takes precedence of the hypothetical lore of the antiquary. Never will English eyes at least, dwell on the Gladiator without Byron's description recurring to the memory. Glorious privilege of genius ! thus to identify itself with the beautiful and sublime. The Antinous is very fine, and so is the Flora. The pictures in the Capitol are well worthy of attention, but their number is so extensive that I shall reserve my impressions of them until I return to Rome ; merely noting, that Domenichino's Sybil surprised me by its immeasurable superiority over the copies and engravings of it which I have seen. Paul Veronese's celebrated Europa, is worthy its celebrity ; and a splendid picture by Rubens, of the Wolf nursing Romulus and Remus, justifies the reputation of this gorgeous painter.

12th.—Last night, saw the Museum of the Vatican by torch-light, having obtained a permission for that purpose. Sculpture acquires new charms when thus viewed ; the light and shade is more effective, and the warm hues of the torches give the statues an appearance of life that is surprising. They appeared to me to be still more beautiful than when I looked at them with the light of day ; and the effect, the torches being judiciously arranged, was magical.

The increased heat, and dread of malaria, drive us from Rome before I have explored half its treasures : but as I count on passing some months here, on my return from Naples, I am consoled for having sojourned in the Imperial City but a week. How various, how powerful, and how indelible, are the impressions made on my mind during this brief epoch ; and yet how utterly impossible have I found it to transfer them to paper !

Saw the Pope and Cardinal Gonsalvi to-day. Never were there more perfect resemblances than Lawrence's portraits of them. The Pope is the personification of the *beau idéal* of the Father of

the Church. Venerable and mild, with a chastened dignity, and look of resignation, that, joined to the remarkable paleness of his face, excites a sentiment of deep interest in those who behold him. His eyes are thoughtful and melancholy. Not so are the brilliant orbs of the Cardinal Gonsalvi, which have a piercing expression, as of those of a person accustomed to search in the countenances of those with whom he is brought in contact, for their secret sentiments. The Cardinal is a handsome man: but the Pope's physiognomy pleases me more.

Went over the Villa of the Princess Pauline Borghese, who is at present absent from Rome. The temple is worthy the goddess: it is an exquisite specimen of French taste; and all its decorations announce it the residence of a Parisian *petite-maitresse*. Though in very delicate health, and no longer in her *première jeunesse*, Pauline is said still to retain much of that beauty and symmetry which rendered her such an object of universal attraction at the court of Napoleon. The portraits of her are very lovely, yet I am told they scarcely render her justice. One of the apartments of her villa (that, I believe, appropriated for taking *café*) is fitted up in the Egyptian style, and in it, on a slab of marble, stands an urn, with a suitable inscription, containing the heart of General Le Clerc, the first husband of the Princess, who died in Egypt. A chapel or an oratory would be a more fitting place for this melancholy *memento mori*; but the Princess Pauline thinks differently, and likes to contemplate it while sipping her *café*.

TERRACINA, 14th. — Left Rome yesterday, driven from it by the oppressive heat, and the evil prophecies dinned into my ears of the malaria. I have no fears of the effect of either for myself, but I dare not risk them for others. Albano and its environs pleased me so much, that I should like to have sojourned in it some days. Before reaching it, we passed the tomb of the Horatii and Curiatii; and paused to look on a monument that recalled to memory the deep sympathy of youthful days, when perusing the stirring tale of the combat of these heroes, and the brutality exercised by the conqueror to his sister. The lake Nemi is beautiful, so is Gensano; and the Mediterranean sent its fresh breezes across the parched country that intervenes between it and our route, to refresh us.

At Velletri, the evening setting in, and a recent attack by banditti having occurred, we were advised to take a guard; nay, more than advised, for the master of the post alleged the positive necessity of the measure, and the postilions expressed their dread of proceeding without an escort. Though not a little loth, we at length consented to adopt the precaution; and a guard

soon made its appearance, equipped and mounted in a style so irresistibly comic, that it was difficult to keep a serious face while looking at them. They looked as if by no means inclined to share in our hilarity; *au contraire*, they exhibited such evident marks of trepidation, that one of our party thought it advisable to hint to them, that should the brigands make their appearance, and our guard not face them manfully, *he* would certainly fire on these last; a threat that seemed to alarm them not a little, as they saw that our gentlemen and servants were well armed.

The sun was gilding the scenery with its last bright rays, when we left Velletri; and a more romantic picture could hardly be imagined. The well-appointed English carriages and *fourgon*, presented a striking contrast with the small rough horses that drew them rapidly along, with harness half rope, half leather: carriages and horses highly characteristic of their different countries. These were preceded by a courier, galloping along and clacking his whip, evidently not a little vain of his laced coat, and the silver badge of the armorial bearings of his employer bound round his arm. Then followed two of the guard, keeping up with difficulty, to the leaders of the first carriage, then two more at each side of the carriage, and a similar escort for the second carriage and for the *fourgon*. The wild and sallow countenances of the escort and postilions, formed a curious contrast with the plump, sleek, fresh-coloured faces of the English servants. The effects of malaria were as visible in the first, as were those of beef and beer in the second.

On we went, rapidly and uninterruptedly, over the Pontine Marshes, no human being, or house, breaking the solitude of the baneful soil between the posts. The persons at the posthouses looked fearfully haggard; and their warning to us not to sleep while passing the Marshes, was invested with solemnity by the palor of their cadaverous faces, and the hollow tones of their voices.

We reached Terracina without having seen a brigand: and dismissed our guard without having had any opportunity of judging of their valour. The aspect of the country between Velletri and Terracina is savage and desolate, overgrown with masses of thick, tangled, rank grass, broken by pools of stagnant water, whose deleterious vapours impregnate the air. Herds of wild buffaloes are scattered over the dreary landscape, and flocks of water-fowls flit over the dark pools; their wild and melancholy cries adding to the gloom with which the scene impresses the mind.

At Terracina, the country presents a cheering aspect, for it is rich and luxuriant; and the many vestiges of antiquity scattered amid its environs, add to the interest of the picture. This was the site of the ancient Anxur, and boasts many attractions for the

antiquary ; while for the lover of classical lore it is rich in associations, for near it are many scenes of the Eneid and Odyssey. The ruins of the Castle of Theodoric, which crown the steep that commands the town, have a fine effect ; and the contrast of a Gothic ruin near the classical ones, gives interest to both.

MOLA DI GAETA, 16th.—The aspect of this charming place, and the desire of exploring its environs, have induced us to devote one day to the task. Never was there a more exhilarating prospect than the one now spread out before me, from the window of the Albergo di Cicerone. A thick mass of orange-trees, crowned with their golden fruit, and mingled with luxuriant myrtles, divide the terrace on which my window opens, from the sea, whose blue and placid waters are at this moment sparkling with the reflection of a brilliant sun. The promontory of Misenum bounds the view at one side, and Mola di Gaeta the other. The air is balmy, refreshed by the soft breezes from the sea, which are impregnated with the delicious odour of the orange flowers, over which they float ere they reach the terrace. Existence becomes positive enjoyment in such a scene, and the *dolce far niente* of the Italians is fully understood. We had our morning repast served on the terrace ; and, though far from being luxurious, it was enjoyed with a zest that seldom accompanies the most *recherché* one. The transparent atmosphere of this sunny land must charm all who, like me, have been accustomed to the hazy and sombre sky of our clime. It seems as if the eye could never tire of wandering over the vast expanse that courts its gaze ; and that the imagination drinks in large draughts of sunshine, to warm and invigorate it. The gentle murmur of the waves, breaking on the shore, are heard from the terrace, and dispose the mind to a delicious reverie. Italy, still—and ever beautiful Italy, thou must be seen to be appreciated ! for how flat, stale, and unprofitable are all attempts to describe thy charms ! Who can look at thee, bask in thy sunshine, and feel thy genial air tranquillizing the spirit, and moving the heart to kindly affections, without wishing that every beloved friend far away, were present to share thy influence, and enjoy thy blessings ? I write this feeble memento of thy charms, loth to leave, even for a brief period, the view which delights me, in order that, on a future day, when far from thy bright coast, I may recall the scene now spread before my window, by making this faint sketch of it. Who can wonder at the complacency with which Cicero dwells on the attractions of his Formianum, when gazing on this spot, which is said to have been the site of it ? At the bottom of the orange grove, are some ruins, bathed by the sea, which were pointed out as a part of his villa : they probably were the baths, and never were there more pellucid ones, as I can verify ; for, tempted by

their seclusion, and the purity of the water, I bathed therein early this morning, and felt myself invigorated by the briny element.

Our guide showed us the spot where Cicero was murdered, when attempting to escape from his litter. A ruined tower marks the place, said to have been erected to commemorate the fatal event. How the recollection of this cruelty to such a man makes one loathe the memory of Augustus, whose perfidious policy led to this murder! When dwelling on scenes of beauty, that make the heart swell with gratitude to the Creator, how painful is it to be forced to reflect on the cruelty and injustice of man, which have left the trail of the serpent even in this paradise!

We drove to Gaeta, which is about four miles from the inn, in order to see the small fortress, in a tower of which, it is asserted, the unburied corse of the Constable de Bourbon still remains. We could not obtain permission to enter the fortress; consequently did *not* view, through a window of the tower, what our guide declares may be seen—the shrunken and shapeless mass, covered with tattered garments, that was once the bold and ambitious constable. We were, however, amply repaid for the drive, by the sight of a *basso-relievo*, which ornaments the Baptistery of the cathedral, inscribed with the name of Salpion, an Athenian sculptor. It represents Ino, wife of Athamas, king of Thebes, concealing one of her children in her bosom, to screen it from the rage of its father. Our guide was eloquent in praise of this work, which certainly has great merit. He also forgot not to remind us that Gaeta was founded by Æneas, in honour of his nurse Gajeta, of which name Gaeta is a corruption.

It is curious to observe the love of classical lore that animates many of the lower classes in Italy. With the traditions attached to the ruins around them they have a general acquaintance, and can converse on them *con amore*.

Lovely as the view from the terrace of this inn is by day, it is even still more so by night. We remained in the balmy air till midnight, looking at the moon silvering the sea with a flood of light, and tinging the promontory of Misenum with its beams. Oh! what a stillness and repose hung on the lovely scene! All nature seemed hushed into slumber, but smiling like a beautiful child in its sleep.

NAPLES, 17th.—Before I seek my pillow, I must note down the journey of to-day; for so many objects court my attention, that its impressions may be effaced. The region we traversed is fraught with classical associations, and immortalized as the scene where the sage Ulysses met the daughter of the King of the Læstrygones. It derives scarcely less interest from the journey of Horace through it, when going to Brundisium. We found none of the Falernian

wine, of whose merits he was so eloquent, though our host at the Albergo di Cicerone more than insinuated that his cellar possessed some that would not have dissatisfied Horace himself. On leaving the Albergo di Cicerone, we passed through Mola di Gaeta, whence it is about half a mile distant. This is little more than a village, formed of white houses, fronting the sea, with a post-house, and one or two inns; but it is as populous and animated a one as can be imagined, chiefly occupied by fishermen and their families. The costume of the women, if not remarkable for its cleanliness, had at least the merit of being very picturesque. Their heads looked like those of antique female statues, the hair being braided with silken bands, and bound round their heads, forming a knot at the back. Their draperies, though scant, and of the coarsest texture, clung to them not ungracefully; and there was an ease in their deportment which, if it amounted not to elegance, indicated a total freedom from the restraint of stiff stays. The eyes of the Italians are as superior to those of my compatriots, as is their skies to ours. Large, lustrous, and expressive, they can flash with vivacity, or melt with softness. The children remind me much of those belonging to the southern coast of Ireland. Like them, muscular and well formed, with a freedom from *embonpoint* that proves the absence of repletion, they move with agility, and rush into the sea, as if it were their native element. Nowhere have I seen such happy faces as in Italy; even the squalid mendicants fail to summon up a countenance of misery, to illustrate the tales of it, with which they assail the carriage of every *forestieri* that passes; and, judging by physiognomies, one might pronounce that the beggar, who declares that he wants the most ordinary necessities of life, is less wretched than most part of the travellers, rolling in luxurious carriages, and blessed with affluence, from whom he solicits charity. Marvellous effects of a genial climate! that can thus lighten the sense of life's worst evil—extreme poverty.

We crossed the ancient Liris at Garagliano, and thought of Pierre de Medicis, who here lost his life. The country around St. Agata is beautiful, and were the inn less wretched, might tempt a sojourn there for some hours. The postilions pointed out to us *Minturna*, and I confess I should have liked to have visited the ruins where Marius, himself ruined, sought shelter; but the wish of beholding Naples for the first time, by the light of day, prevented me from satisfying this desire. Next came Capua, no longer the luxurious city of whose effects on his soldiers Hannibal was apprehensive, but a poor unclean town, filled with a noisy and filthy population. We saw, at a distance, the ruins of a triumphal arch and an amphitheatre, which at some future day we will explore.

Aversa, the Atella of ancient times, was next passed. I thought more of the tragical death of Andrew, which took place there, than of the Norman conquerors to whom the town owes its birth; and wondered how Queen Joan, who to woman's beauty joined not a woman's heart, could sanction so fearful a crime.

Naples burst upon us from the steep hill above the Campo Santo, and never did aught so bright and dazzling meet my gaze. Innumerable towers, domes, and steeples, rose above palaces, intermingled with terraces and verdant foliage. The bay, with its placid waters, lay stretched before us, bounded on the left by a chain of mountains, with Vesuvius, sending up its blue incense to the cloudless sky. Capri, behind which the sun was hiding his rosy beams, stood like a vast and brilliant gem, encircled by the radiance of the expiring luminary, which was reflected in the glassy mirror that bathed its base; and to the right, lay a crescent of blue isles and promontories, which look as if formed to serve as a limit to the waters that lave their bases. The scene was like one created by the hand of enchantment, and the suddenness with which it burst on us, added surprise to admiration. We ordered our postilions to pause on the brow of the hill, that we might gaze on the beautiful panorama before us; and as our eyes dwelt on it, we were ready to acknowledge that the old Neapolitan phrase of "*Vedi Napoli e poi mori*," had a meaning, for they who die without having seen Naples, have missed one of the most enchanting views in the world. We paused on the brow of the hill, and while the eye drank in this scene of life and beauty, one of the postilions directed our attention to a large square of ground inclosed by high walls, round which grew groups of cedars, stone-pines, and other trees, which served to break its dull uniformity; and said, "That is the Campo Santo." This melancholy spot lies to the left of the road in a defile at the bottom of the hill, divided from the route by a sort of common, on which several large and picturesque trees were scattered. There came a sudden sadness over my feelings as my eye turned from the glowing and lovely scene around, to this lonely and desolate resting-place of the dead. The contrast was affecting, and effectually sobered the rapturous admiration in which I was indulging.

18th.—I thought last night as I stood on the balcony, that the view of this lovely bay by moonlight could not be equalled; but when I looked on the same scene this morning as a brilliant sun was beaming, it seemed to have acquired greater charms. Our hotel, the Gran Bretagna, fronts the sea, and is only divided from it by the garden of the Villa Reale, which is filled with plants and flowers, mingled with statues and vases, whose whiteness are finely contrasted by their rich and vivid tints. The blue and beautiful

sea is seen sparkling through the opening of the trees ; and many a white sail is floating over its placid bosom. What a picture is now spread before me, and how poor, how colourless are words to paint it ! Our hotel is an excellent one ; the rooms spacious and well-furnished, and the attendance good. Its only defect is that, being in the Strada de Chiaja, which is the fashionable evening promenade, the noise and dust are troublesome. I feel as if I should never tire of gazing on the enchanting view from my windows ; and every change in the atmosphere gives a new aspect to it. How light and elastic is the air ! Respiration is carried on unconsciously ; and existence becomes a positive pleasure in such a climate. Who that has seen Naples can wonder that her children are idle, and luxuriously disposed ? To gaze on the cloudless sky and blue Mediterranean, in an atmosphere so pure and balmy, is enough to make the veriest plodder who ever courted Plutus abandon his toil and enjoy the delicious *dolce far niente* of the Neapolitans.

19th.—I have determined to find a suitable abode before I begin the round of sight-seeing here ; for the noise of the Strada de Chiaja of an evening is so overpowering that a longer *séjour* in this hotel is not desirable. I devoted a considerable portion of yesterday to house-hunting ; and though I have seen many fine palaces, I have not yet met with one quite to my fancy, for all are fitted up more with a view to show than comfort.

The gaiety of the streets of Naples at night is unparalleled. Numberless carriages of every description are seen rolling along. The ice-shops are crowded by the *beau monde*, and the humbler portable shops, with their gaudy decorations, which are established in the streets, are surrounded by eager applicants for the sorbetto and lemonade, of which the lower classes consume such quantities. When I last night beheld numbers of both sexes flocking round the venders of iced water and lemonade, of which copious draughts were swallowed with apparent zest, I thought of the different and far less pleasing sight, which the streets of London present at the same hour ; when so many persons of both sexes flock to those degrading receptacles of folly and vice, the gin-shops, to seek in the excitement of ebriety forgetfulness of cares. Here, all are gay and animated ; from the occupants of the coroneted carriage down to the lazaroni, who, in the enjoyment of the actual present, are reckless of the future. At one spot was seen one of those portable shops, peculiar to Naples, gaily painted and gilded, and illuminated by paper lanterns in the shape of balloons, tinted with the brightest colours, round which groups were collected devouring macaroni, served hot to them from the furnace where it was prepared. At another shop, iced water-melons were sold in slices ;

the bright pink of the interior of the fruit offering a pretty contrast to the vivid green of the exterior. Frittura, sending forth its savoury fumes, was preparing at another stall ; and *frutti di mare* was offered for sale on tables arranged along the Strada di Santa Lucia. The sounds of guitars were heard mingling with the joyous laugh of the lazaroni ; and the dulcet voices of the groups in carriages who accosted each other with the animation peculiar to Italians, as their vehicles encountered on the promenade. The sweet-sounding words *signorina*, *amico*, *cara*, and *carissimo*, often broke on the ear : and above this scene of life and gaiety, this motley assemblage of the beautiful and the grotesque, was spread a sky of deep azure thickly studded with stars, whose dazzling brightness seemed to shed warmth, as well as light, over the moving picture. The contrast between the solitude and silence of Rome at night, with the hilarity of the crowds that fill the streets at Naples, is striking. The people of the former partake the character of the Eternal City. They appear as if touched by the grandeur of the ruins that surround them ; and are grave and dignified. The Neapolitans, like their volcanic country, are never in a state of repose. Their gaiety has in it something reckless and fierce ; as if the burning lava of their craters had a magnetic influence over their temperaments.

Vesuvius sends up its blue smoke in a shadowy column, so faint as to give little indication of our being likely to witness an eruption for some time ; but I never turn my eyes to it without likening it to a sleeping giant, who will wake refreshed from his slumber to make all around tremble at his power.

20th.—After having looked at half the palaces at Naples and its immediate environs, I have at length engaged the Palazzo-Belvedere, at Vomero, one of the most beautiful residences I ever beheld, in the midst of gardens, and overlooking the Bay. The view it commands is unrivalled ; and the gardens boast every rare and fragrant plant and flower that this delicious climate can produce. I long to take possession of it ; but, alas ! some days must elapse before it can be made ready for our reception, for it requires so many of the comforts indispensable to an English family, that their absence could not be compensated by the painted and gilded ceilings, oriental alabaster architraves, marble floors, pictures, and statues, with which the palace is abundantly supplied. The Prince and Princess Belvedere looked surprised when I had an upholsterer to note down the different articles of furniture requisite for him to supply ; as they thought the heavy, cumbrous gilt chairs and sofas, ranged in formal rows along the apartments, and the scanty furniture of the bed-rooms, amply sufficient for our wants, as they had been for theirs. House-rent is extravagantly

high at Naples; and when fine suites of rooms are required, larger prices are demanded than in London.

21st.—So far from getting accustomed to the beauty of this place, it creates an increased admiration every day. The resplendent skies, and the glorious sea that mirrors them, fill me with delight: all charms except the never-ceasing noise of the people, which overpowers and fatigues me. The drives are delightful, the sea always in view, and its breezes light as the zephyr's breath, bear freshness on their wings. We drove along the Mergellina last evening, passed through the Grotto di Posilippo, and along the Strada Nuova. What a succession of beautiful views! each acquiring new charms from the changes in the atmosphere. From a golden hue, in which the skies, sea, and promontories were steeped in a yellow light, like some of those pictures by Claude Lorrain, on which the eye delights to dwell, they changed to a tint of deep glowing rose; and then deepened into purple, which gave the whole scene the effect of being viewed through a coloured glass.

Emerging from the sombre Grotto di Posilippo, the dazzling picture that meets the eye is magical. This grotto is 2,316 feet in length, hewn through the solid rock, and lighted by lamps, which burn night and day. Three carriages may pass abreast without inconvenience, save from the dust which the wheels of the vehicles and horses put in motion, and which exhales a disagreeable odour. Images and pictures of saints are hung on the sides of the cavern, with small votive lamps burning before them; but the presence of these symbols of religion prevent not the loud imprecations of the coachmen, muleteers, and lazaroni, which sound lugubriously amid the reverberations produced by the noise of the carriages. Entering this sombre cavern on a fine summer evening, when the sky was all splendour, its gloom and chill struck us forcibly; but when emerging from it, the enchanting prospect around seemed to have acquired greater beauty from the force of the contrast.

The heat is intense at present in Naples; and many foreigners, as well as all the natives, indulge, during the fervour of noontide, in a siesta. At such hours, there is scarcely a passenger, above the lower classes, to be seen in the streets; but when the evening sets in, every avenue leading to the Chiaja, is crowded by carriages of every description. Last evening, we encountered the royal family. The King was in a carriage, attended by one or two of his favourites, and the heir-presumptive to the throne, the Prince of Salerno, followed in a barouche, with his wife, and the Princess Christine, his daughter. The King is a thin spare man, with fresh-coloured cheeks, long nose, and grey locks, worn rather long. His countenance is animated, and he looks very hale and

healthy for his years. Not so the Prince of Salerno, whose obesity indicates anything but health; and the stooping posture which he continually maintains, his head drooping over his chest, confirms the impression of helpless *embonpoint* which his countenance conveys. From this mode of holding his head, his glance has something disagreeable and sinister in it. The Princess of Salerno has been, it is said, extremely good-looking; but though only now in her thirty-eighth year, no trace of it remains: her excessive *embonpoint* having destroyed every vestige of symmetry in form and face. Her countenance is expressive of good-nature; and she returns the salutations of the crowds that pass her carriage with a good-humoured smile. The Princess Christine (1) is in her seventeenth year, and is exceedingly pretty. Slight, and well formed, with a countenance in which *finesse* and *esprit* are delineated, even as a grisette she would challenge admiration. Her features are small, and neatly finished; her eyes expressive, her teeth beautiful, and her smile full of fascination. Her complexion is of a pale clear olive, which, if less brilliant than the fresh roses and lilies of the cheeks of our English ladies, is not without its charm. In short, the Princess Christine is a very attractive person, and must, without the prestige attached to the adventitious aid of royal birth, be universally considered a charming young woman. Having passed and re-passed the carriage in which she sat last evening, several times, I had good opportunities of examining her; and I must pronounce her to be worthy the admiration she excites in the combustible hearts of her countrymen; who view her less as a grand Princess, than as a very bewitching woman. The carriages that encounter the royal cortège, draw up while they pass. The gentlemen take off their hats, and the ladies bow. Their salutations are graciously acknowledged by all the royal family, but peculiarly so by the Princess Christine, whose delicate lips expand into a sweet smile, displaying teeth like pearls, and whose bow is full of grace.

22d.—I have been to the Palazzo-Belvedere, at Vomero, which now begins to wear a more habitable aspect, thanks to the activity of a French upholsterer, and some eight or ten *saquinos*, who have been scrubbing it for the last two days. The only objection to Vomero, is the long and steep hill to be ascended to reach it, but it is this hill that gives it the extensive and beautiful prospect it commands, and secures to it the freshest breezes that visit the shore. A long avenue, entered by an old-fashioned archway, which forms part of the dwelling of the intendent of the Prince di Belvedere, leads through a pleasure-ground, filled with the rarest trees, shrubs, and plants, to the Palazzo, which forms three sides of a

(1) At present Queen Regent of Spain.

square; the fourth being an arcade, that connects one portion of the building with the other. There is a court-yard, and fountain in the centre. A colonnade extends from each side of the front of the palace, supporting a terrace covered with flowers. The windows of the principal salons open on a garden, formed on an elevated terrace, surrounded on three sides by a marble balustrade, and inclosed on the fourth by a long gallery, filled with pictures, statues, and alti and bassi-rilievi. On the top of this gallery, which is of considerable length, is a terrace, at the extreme end of which is a pavilion with open arcades, and paved with marble. This pavilion commands a most enchanting prospect of the bay, with the coast of Sorrento on the left; Capri in the centre, with Nisida, Procida, Ischia, and the promontory of Misenum to the right; the foreground filled up by gardens and vineyards. The odours of the flowers in the grounds around this pavilion, and the Spanish jasmine and tuberoses that cover the walls, render it one of the most delicious retreats in the world. The Palazzo-Belvedere contains many fine pictures, and some good groups in sculpture. Its best picture is a Rubens, representing Herodias with the head of St. John on a charger, with Herod, his wife, and attendants at a supper-table. Four thousand pounds have been refused for this picture. A very spirited portrait of Masaniello, painted by his contemporary and friend, Salvator Rosa, has attracted much notice, owing to Canova having pronounced it to bear a very striking likeness to the Emperor Napoleon when he was first consul. The walls of all the rooms are literally covered with pictures; the architraves of the doors of the principal rooms are of Oriental alabaster and the rarest marbles; the tables and consoles are composed of the same costly materials; and the furniture, though in decadence, bears the traces of its pristine splendour. Besides five *salons de réception* on the principal floor, the palace contains a richly decorated chapel and sacristy, a large *salle de billard*, and several suites of bed and dressing-rooms. An abundance of the finest and rarest porcelain vases, rock crystal, malachite and agate ornaments, are piled on the marble tables and consoles; and now that curtains, carpets, and other adjuncts to comfort are beginning to be placed, the palazzo is assuming an aspect of English elegance joined to Italian grandeur, that renders it a delightful residence.

Our banker, Mr. Price, a most gentlemanly and obliging personage, has kindly undertaken to engage Neapolitan servants for us; and, except wearing ear-rings, those he has hired look as much like London footmen as possible. I find a system of domestic economy prevails at Naples, different to that practised in all other parts of Italy, namely, that an agreement is made with a cook, who furnishes all repasts required at a stipulated price *per head*; and

each guest invited is paid for at the same rate. This system is universally adopted in all large establishments, and saves a world of trouble and imposition. A contract is entered into by which the number of *entrées*; *entremets*, *rôtis*, etc., and desserts, are fixed; the *déjeuners*, *petits soupers*, etc., regulated, and, at the close of the week the bill, resembling that of an hotel, except that no separate items are entered, is presented and compared with the book kept as a check by the *maitre-d'hôtel*. In the houses of all the *noblesse*, and even in the royal establishments, this system is pursued, and is said to give great satisfaction.

23rd.—There are many English families at Naples,—among whom Sir William and Lady Drummond are conspicuous for their hospitality. Sir William Drummond is said to be unceasingly occupied in literary pursuits, and is at present engaged in his work entitled “*Origines*.” Sir William Gell is also here, and is universally esteemed and beloved; as is his inseparable friend, the Hon. K. Craven. Mr. Hamilton, remarkable for his erudition and taste, is our minister to the Neapolitan court; so that the residence of such men as Drummond, Gell, Craven, and Hamilton, is calculated to give the inhabitants of Naples a very high opinion of the English. Colonel Chaloner Biss is also a resident at Naples, where his hospitality and urbanity have rendered him very, and deservedly, popular. The Abbé — fills an *undefined*, and *undefinable* position here. He is said to be in great favour with the minister, Medici, and to turn that favour to a profitable account. *How* his influence with the minister has been acquired, it is not easy to imagine, for his talents are of a very mediocre kind, his manners coarse, and his reputation not honourable. *Mais n'importe*, he preserves his ground; and is received, though abused, in every great house in Naples. This is one of the many extraordinary examples one often witnesses, of a man rising from a low station without one quality to justify his ascent, or to maintain it, yet whose presence is tolerated by those who decry him.

We drove to the Mole last night, and were amused by hearing an itinerant *filosofo*, as our *laquais de place* called him, recite passages from Tasso's *Gerusalemme* with an earnestness, that excited no little sympathy and admiration from the circle around him. Murmurs of applause followed the pathetic parts of the poem, and showers of grains (a coin less than our farthings) rewarded the reciter. The animation with which the audience around the *filosofo* listened to passages that I should have thought too elevated for their comprehension, surprised me; and suggested the reflection of how a similar recitation would have been received by the lower classes in the streets in London. Here, the sensibilities of the people are not blunted, as with us, by the immoderate and general use of

ardent spirits. The simplicity of the diet operates, I am persuaded, most advantageously, not only on the frames, but on the minds, of the Neapolitans; and leaves them free from the moody humours and feverish excitement engendered by the stimulating food and copious libations of porter and spirits to which the lower classes with us are so universally addicted. The Mole presents the best scene at Naples for studying the tastes of the humblest portion of its inhabitants. Here they abandon themselves, with the gaiety of children broken loose from school, to the impressions produced on their minds by the different persons who resort to this place to amuse them. At one spot, the *filosofo* I named held his audience spell-bound; and at no great distance, two men sang duets, accompanying themselves on their guitars, and making up in spirit what their music wanted in sweetness. A Polichinel displayed his comic powers with irresistible humour, exciting peals of laughter from his merry crowd; while, strange to say, a monk, mounted on a chair nearly opposite, brandished a crucifix in the air with frantic gesture, exhorting the followers of Polichinel to desert that unworthy mime, and to follow him, who would lead them to the Redeemer. I must add, that the monk won few converts from Polichinel, notwithstanding that his menaces of the flames that awaited those who persevered in adhering to his rival, were appalling. It was asserted by a gentleman who accompanied us to the Mole, and who has long resided at Naples, that he was once present when this same monk, becoming enraged at witnessing the preference accorded to Polichinel, frantically exclaimed, while brandishing the crucifix with one hand, and pointing to it with the other, "Behold! this is the true, the only Polichinel! Follow this, and you are saved; but adhere to the false Polichinel, and the never-dying flames shall make you exhibit more antics than that imp of Satan ever practised!" The vehemence and fury of this monk were really painful to witness. Surrounded but by a few followers, who cast wistful glances at Polichinel, the peals of laughter of the crowd who pressed round that merry wight almost drowned the tones of his voice; but his imprecations, loud and deep, were occasionally heard amidst their shouts of mirth: and I was glad when we quitted his vicinity, and no longer witnessed this fearful mixture of impiety, and reckless folly.

24th.—The Honourable R. Grosvenor dined with us yesterday. He is the liveliest Englishman I have ever seen; and his gaiety sits so gracefully on him, that it tempts one to wish it was more frequently a characteristic of his countrymen. I have nowhere beheld more beautiful women than in three or four carriages at the evening drive on the Chiaja. I was peculiarly struck by the dazzling delicacy of their complexions, a beauty which I fancied

was denied to the inhabitants of this sunny clime ; but the fairness of the ladies I have noticed, could not be surpassed in London. The Duchess di Forli, one of the reigning belles of Naples, is a lovely woman, with hair dark as the raven's wing, and lustrous eyes of nearly as deep a hue ; her complexion is of a transparent fairness, and her lips are as crimson as the flower of the pomegranate. The Princess Trecazi is another specimen of Neapolitan loveliness ; and the Princess Centella might furnish a faultless model for a Hebe, she is so fair, so youthful, and so exquisitely beautiful. The expressive countenances of Italian ladies strike those accustomed only to the less demonstrative ones of English women, with surprise. Yet there is nothing of boldness in their physiognomies. It is their mutable character, changing with every emotion, and the changes conveying to the beholder the expression of the feeling of which they are the visible sign, that strike one. Their faces remind one of a beautiful lake, on whose bosom every breeze produces a gentle ripple, and every cloud its shadow ; but likewise suggests the thought of what effects a storm might cause on this same beautiful surface, the mobility of their countenances indicating a more than ordinary predisposition to passionate emotions.

25th.—Palazzo-Belvedere. We have taken possession of our beautiful abode, which now presents a most delightful aspect. O the comfort of finding oneself in a private house, after sojourning for eleven months in hotels ! of being sure of meeting no strangers on the stairs ; no intruders in the ante-rooms ; of hearing no slapping of doors ; no knocking about of trunks and imperials ; no cracking of whips of postilions ; no vociferations of couriers ; and, above all, of not having our olfactory organs disgusted by the abominable odour of cigars. Surely an exemption from such annoyances, after an endurance of them for nearly a year, is in itself a subject for satisfaction ; but to have secured such an abode as this palazzo, is indeed a cause for thankfulness. The Prince and Princess of Belvedere came to visit us to-day, and seemed perfectly astonished at the metamorphosis that we have effected in their mansion. They came to offer us the use of their box at the Opera, and many other civilities ; are well-bred, and appear very amiable people. The Prince was a Cardinal, but having inherited the title and fortune of Belvedere, the Pope gave him a dispensation from his vows, and the *ci-devant* Cardinal has long been a husband and father of a family. Now that we are established in our new residence, we intend commencing a round of sight-seeing ; and Naples and its environs offer occupation for many a day. So enchanting are the views from the windows of this palace, that the eye dwells on them with untiring pleasure ; and when it reverts to the interior

of the apartments, it is scarcely less gratified, their loftiness, spaciousness, and decorations, forming a beautiful *coup-d'œil*.

26th.—Spent the greater part of the day at the Museo Borbonico, which is rich in antiquities of every description, from the finest statues down to the most minute objects of a lady's toilette; some of the latter offering irrefragable proofs that the ladies of antiquity were in the habit of calling in the aid of art to heighten or repair their charms. When we behold the collections of the works of the great masters in Italy and France, and the buildings erected for them, it is impossible to resist feeling a sense of humiliation at remembering the immeasurable inferiority of similar establishments in England, where objects are crowded together in a space too small to permit their being seen to advantage. Whether this arises from want of taste, or excess of parsimony, it is equally to be regretted; and exposes our nation to many (I wish I could say unmerited) animadversions from the foreigners who visit us. Among the statues, that which most pleased me was the Aristides; the ease, yet dignity, of the posture being so wholly free from theatrical effect, which is in general the defect of statues. The drapery, too, falls admirably; and the face is full of a grave yet mild expression, that accords well with our notions of the original. Though I dislike colossal statues in general, and female ones in particular, I could not refuse the meed of admiration to the Flora Farnese; for, notwithstanding its gigantic proportions, the sculptor has skilfully managed not to destroy the feminine character of the Goddess of Flowers. The enormous size of this statue, and the feminine character still preserved in it, brought to my mind the impression I experienced on beholding Mont Blanc, one evening, when the sun was setting, and its vast and snowy surface was tinged with its rays, until the whole mountain looked a delicate rose colour; and drew from one of our party the expression, that it appeared, in its rosy drapery, an immense mass of effeminacy. The equestrian statues of the two Balbi disappointed me, for the horses are stiff, formal, wooden-looking ones, and their riders are nearly as precise. The Venus (I refer to the most celebrated one in this collection, for there are several) is a mere meretricious beauty, as inferior to the Medicean Venus as a pretty *danseuse* is to a lovely English girl of seventeen, on her first presentation. One can hardly believe the sex to be the same. The Agrippina is a very fine statue; there is a calmness and repose about it that characterise the works of antiquity from those of modern times. They look as if the originals, while sitting, *thought* not of placing themselves in graceful postures, but fell into them naturally; while those of our day appear studied and affected. I have never seen so perfect a personification of physical suffering as the Gladiator

in this Museo; but as the physical *only* is visible, it fails to excite the interest with which all must pause before its faultless rival of the Capitol. One turns from this with much of the same sentiment of mingled pity and disgust with which we should escape from seeing a paviour after having undergone amputation, while yet the traces of agony are visible in his frame: but regard the other with a respectful commiseration, because mental anguish seems to have vanquished bodily suffering. There is scarcely a fashion that has disfigured the female head during the last century, that may not find a prototype in the coiffures of the female busts of antiquity in the collection of bronzes here. Curls in every fantastic shape, from the Gorgon-looking locks of some ladies, to the vine tendril ringlets of others, with masses of frizzed and plaited hair, that render the countenances they were meant to adorn, hideous. The Roman busts do not realize my preconceived notion of the countenances of that people. The features are less regular than our English ones, and the faces infinitely less handsome. Indeed, it strikes me, that the Italian faces of the present day, even of the lower classes, are far more comely than those I have seen that belong to antiquity; always of course excepting the works of Grecian art, in which the faces possess not only perfect symmetry, but a peculiar expression of refinement. Long and prominent noses, with large mouths and short chins, seem to me to be the peculiar characteristics of the Roman faces of antiquity; while those of our time, if equally unmarked by a refined or intellectual expression, are certainly more comely.

27th.—Mr. R. Grosvenor and Capt. Gordon dined with us yesterday; both very agreeable. The latter reminded me of his brother, Lord Aberdeen, who is a very superior man.

The gardens of the Palazzo-Belvedere join those of the Floridiano, the beautiful villa of the Principessa Partano, the wife (*à la main gauche*) of the King of Naples. These left-handed marriages of Princes are by no means uncommon, and entail no personal disrespect on the ladies who contract them, or any political *désagrémens* on the Princes or their offspring. Titles and suitable fortunes are conferred on the ladies and their children; they are received with distinction at court, and in society, in which last, however, they are said to mingle rarely; but do not inhabit the royal residences except as visitors. The Principessa Partano is a Sicilian lady of high birth, who being left a widow with a large family, and no longer in her *première jeunesse*, captivated Ferdinand, soon after the death of his Queen, Caroline, the sister of Marie-Antoinette, who bestowed on her his left hand, the title of Princess, and a large revenue. The Principessa is much liked at Naples, and the King is said to be exceedingly attached to her; and

not the less so, it is stated, that she bears with great philosophy his Majesty's not unfrequent demonstrations of admiration for any pretty *danseuse*, or *chanteuse*, that appears. The Villa Floridiano, with its extensive ground, was a birth day gift, presented by the King to this lady. His Majesty had it privately bought ; repaired, and enlarged the house, which is now fitting up with a taste worthy of oriental elegance, rendered the grounds a union of classic style and Arcadian beauty ; and when all was nearly completed, on his birth-day, engaged the Princess to a *déjeuner à la fourchette* at the Villa, and placed in the napkin, under her plate, the deed of gift.

We have free ingress to the beautiful gardens of the Floridiano, which join ours, and in which the trees, plants, and flowers of every country are skilfully raised. Grottos, of considerable extent, are perforated in the huge rocks that intersect the grounds ; a bridge, of fine proportion and of cut stone, is thrown across a vast chasm to unite them. Terraces of marble well executed, representing fauns, satyrs, and nymphs, with vases, and groups of sculpture, ornament the gardens. A menagerie is, in my opinion, the only drawback to this charming place, as the roaring of lions, and screams of the other wild beasts, are little in harmony with so Arcadian a spot. Never were wild beasts more carefully attended, or more neatly kept. Their cages are made to resemble natural caverns, and are cut, in fact, in rocks ; and the keepers remove every unsightly object, and preserve the dens as free from impurity, as are most children's nurseries in England. I hope the mammas and nurses will pardon the comparison.

The bath in the Casino, designed for the Principessa Partano, is quite beautiful. It is a small chamber, cased with white marble, and the bath occupies nearly the whole of it, leaving only a space sufficiently large to admit of ottomans, formed of the same material, to be ranged round the room. A flight of marble steps, at each end, descends to the bath ; whose dimensions would admit not only of bathing, but of swimming. A light balustrade of gilt metal encircles the bath, and from the ceiling, which is exquisitely painted with subjects analogous, descend curtains from a circular gilt ring the size of the bath, of snowy texture, which can be secured to the balustrade at pleasure. A lump of snow-white alabaster hangs from the beak of a dove over the bath. Mirrors are inserted in the marble casing of the room, and paintings of nymphs, preparing for the bath, in it, and leaving it, are placed so as to correspond with the mirrors. Marble stands for flowers are stationed near the balustrade, so that their odours may be enjoyed by the bather. The dressing-room is equally tasteful and luxurious ; and no Eastern queen ever owned two more exquisitely

arranged chambers. They look as if designed for some mortal, young and beautiful as the nymphs painted in them, by a youthful lover, whose mind was imbued with the luxuriant and poetical fancies of Eastern climes; instead of the person for whom this fairy palace was created, who is a grandmother, and the lover who formed it, who is an octogenarian.

28th.—We discovered last evening, that two of our Italian servants are no mean performers on the guitar, and sing well enough to be listened to with pleasure, by even more fastidious critics than we are. We made this discovery while sipping iced tea last night, in the delicious pavilion, at the end of the terrace. When first we heard the duo, we imagined it to be a serenade, offered by the gallantry of some neighbour to us strangers,—no uncommon occurrence in Italy; but on enquiring we ascertained that the musicians were no others than two of our domestics. The taste, the feeling, evinced by these men in their playing and singing, quite surprised us, and must have been acquired at the expense of considerable and patient practice.

All that I have hitherto seen of Italian servants has given me a very favourable impression of them. They are obliging, cheerful, and peculiarly well bred; betraying a desire not only to meet the wishes of their employers, but to anticipate them. Our rooms are filled with flowers every day, since our partiality for them has been discovered; but not without a remark made by one of the servants, of his fear of their odour being injurious to the health. The Italian ladies have a great dread of the effect of the perfume of flowers on their nerves; and some have been known to faint, if not “die, of a rose, in aromatic pain.” They are not equally susceptible of unsavoury odours; for the streets through which they must daily pass often send forth some, that are so abominable, as to induce the frequent application of a perfumed handkerchief to my nose, while they seem unconscious of the nuisance. The odour of the flowers in Italy is infinitely more powerful than in England; but in no part of it have I found it so strong as in the garden here. On remarking this to an Italian visitor, I was informed, that the observation had been frequently made; and that a bouquet from Belvedere was esteemed a very acceptable offering for the evening drive in an *open* carriage, but was too pungent for a salon.

29th.—Prince Buttera dined with us yesterday. He is a Hanoverian by birth, but speaks English perfectly well. He was a soldier of fortune, went with his regiment to Sicily, where he captivated the Princess Buttera, the heiress of a very large fortune, who bestowed her hand, wealth, and title on him; and he is now among the most fashionable of the Neapolitan fashionables. Strange destiny! to become from a mere soldier of fortune the master of

immense wealth, and from an obscure name, prince of one of the most ancient titles in Sicily.

Drove to-day to the palace at *Capo di Monti*, which contains nothing worthy of remark. It was built by Charles III., father to the present King, who left one wing unfinished; in which state it has ever since continued. It bears much more resemblance to a barrack than to a palace, and is as uninviting a residence as possible. Some pictures by Camuccini and Landi were shown by the *custode* with as much *fierté* as if they were *chefs-d'œuvre*; but one piece of old Gobelin tapestry, representing Admiral Coligny undauntedly facing his assassins, is, in my estimation, worth them all. This fine piece of tapestry is placed opposite to a most wretched portrait of the Princess Partano, who is nearly as cruelly treated by the painter, as was the gallant Coligny by his murderers. Never did I behold so execrable a daub. One picture in this palace I must not omit noticing. It is the portrait of the mother of the present King, on horseback, dressed in the fashion of her day. A smart cocked-hat decorates her head, and her hair, which is confined behind by a ribbon, floats in the air. A pair of high boots (with spurs) covers her legs to the knees, where they are met by *une culotte*, only partly concealed by a short petticoat. A chemise with a jabot like that of a gentleman, and a cravat and waistcoat, with a pair of gauntlet gloves, complete the costume of this lady, who is mounted *à califourchon* in precisely the same attitude as the picture of the Prince Eugene. A countenance of smirking self-complacency, denoting that the original of this portrait felt confident of being admired, renders the effect of the picture irresistibly ludicrous.

30th.—Visited to-day the tomb of Virgil, or, at least, the spot where it is supposed his ashes repose, for on this point, as on many others, antiquarians have not quite made up their minds: some asserting that the remains of the poet were deposited at the other side of the Bay; and others, agreeing in opinion with *Ælius Donatus*, in his *Life of Virgil*, that they were removed to Naples by order of Augustus, and interred near to the route to Pozzuoli. All that remains of the tomb are four walls roofed in the form of a dome, with three windows. The building is of brick, and the exterior is covered with verdure, which gives it the appearance of a hermitage. It has the following inscription:—

QUI CINERES ?

TUMULO HÆC VESTIGIA :

CONDITUR OLIM ILLE HIC QUI CECINIT PASCUA ,

RURA, DUCES.

A bay-tree once crowned the tomb; but the English travellers, as the *custode* informed us, not only stripped it of its branches, but

when they had all disappeared, cut the roots, so that no trace of it is left. This desire to possess memorials connected with celebrated persons is a weakness from which few are exempt; nevertheless, if we analysed the feeling, we should be led to allow that it is puerile to attach value to mere perishable memorials of even a more perishable substance, the human frame; when we have the emanations of the mind which lent the frame its honour, preserved fresh and unfading as when the immortal spark that dictated them animated its frail tenement of clay. Let us place in our libraries the works of the master spirits of past ages, instead of filling our cabinets with lumber, only prized by some remote association connected with the mortality of those whose writings are immortal. The grave of an Englishman, whose name I could not learn, is, by his last desire, close to the tomb of Virgil, and a more beautiful view than the spot commands it is impossible to imagine. A nameless grave, and particularly in a conspicuous situation, is always an object that awakens melancholy reflections in the mind. It denotes that he whose frame moulders in it was uncheered by the hope—a hope so natural to many—that after he should repose in it, some who loved him would seek his tomb, and read his name with pensive eyes. This return to eternity without leaving a trace behind, indicates a broken spirit which had outlived hope and affection. How many pangs must the human heart have endured, ere it is tutored into this last desire of despair, of dying unknown and unnamed! He could not have been poor, who could pay for a grave in this spot; consequently, it was not poverty that compelled a nameless grave. Whoever may have been the sleeper within it, I gave to his memory a sigh; and to the *custode* an additional fee, for the care bestowed in preserving it from profanation. Another funereal monument, near to that of Virgil, excited less mournful reflections. It is that erected by an English lady to the ashes of her lap-dog! This monument has excited so much animadversion, that it is said it will be removed; and I must confess that I shall not regret its disappearance, for I do not like to see the name of her who raised it, a name honoured in Italy, as appertaining to one who has proved herself a liberal patroness of the arts, and an enlightened amateur of literature and science, exposed to the censure of those—and there are many—who think that she has insulted the ashes of Virgil, by placing those of her canine favourite so near them. (1) On the most elevated part of the vineyard in which the tomb is situated, a French General has erected a stone bench for the accommodation of the visitors to the poet's grave. The view from this seat is one of the finest ever beheld; above it is the following inscription:—

(1) Since writing the above, the monument has been removed by order of the Inspector of Police.

Près du chanteur divin, dont la lyre immortelle
 Répéta des pasteurs les doux et tendres vœux,
 Sur ce banc consacré par l'amitié fidèle,
 Amis, reposez-vous et resserrez vos nœuds.

XVI AVRIL, MDCCCXII.

31st.—Went to see the Palazzo-Portici to-day. The situation would have been charming were it not for its close vicinity to the road, which actually passes through its court. The view from the back of the palace, however, atones for the defect in front. It comprehends a magnificent prospect of the bay, being only divided from the sea by a garden, filled with the finest trees, plants, and flowers. No palace that I have ever seen so completely realizes the notion I had formed of an Italian one, as does this at Portici. Its close proximity to the sea, whose blue waters bathe the balustrade of the garden, and the enchanting views that on each side present themselves, render it a most delicious retreat. This residence owes all its comfort and elegance to the good taste of Madame Murat, ex-Queen of Naples, who evinced not a little judgment in the alterations and repairs carried into effect in all the royal palaces during her brief reign here. The present sovereign and his family are said to have been hardly able to recognize their ancient abodes, when they returned from Sicily; and expressed no little satisfaction at the improvements that had taken place. Ferdinand is reported to have said that Murat was an excellent upholsterer, and had furnished his palaces perfectly to his taste. The apartments at Portici continue precisely in the same state as when Madame Murat occupied them; with the exception that the portraits of the imperial family have been removed to a lumber-room on the ground floor. The cipher of Murat, and the royal crown, are still attached to many of the decorations, and the lantern which lights the vestibule and grand staircase still bears them. The bed-room, bath, boudoir, and library of Madame Murat, are faultless specimens of Parisian elegance and comfort. In the *chambre à coucher* were some drawings from the pencils of her sons, executed with great truth and spirit. They are left in the precise spots selected for them by the fond mother; and the proof of the domestic affection evinced by placing such slightly sketched drawings in so richly decorated a chamber, gave me an increased interest in the fate of her who forgot not the mother in the queen. One of the salons at Portici peculiarly attracted our attention. The ceiling and walls were covered with panels of the most beautiful china of the ancient and celebrated manufactory of Capo di Monti, of which, specimens are now become so rare. The panels have landscapes and groups finely painted, and are bordered with wreaths of flowers the size of Nature, of the richest and most varied dyes, in alto-rilievo; among which, birds of the gayest

plumage, squirrels, and monkeys, all of china, are mingled. The chandeliers, and frames of the mirrors, are also of porcelain, and the effect is singularly beautiful. The floor was formerly covered in a similar style to the panels on the walls; but the King, when obliged to fly from Naples, intended, as it is said, to remove the decorations from this chamber, and had only detached those of the floor, when he was compelled to depart. The portraits of the families of Napoleon and Murat are shown by the *custode*, in the small and mean apartments to which they have been consigned; and the splendour of the dresses of some of them, form a striking contrast with the rooms where they are placed; like the altered destinies of the originals, who have "fallen from their high estate." We were shown two portraits of Murat: one, a full-length, by Gérard, and the other a half-length, by a Neapolitan artist. Both are considered excellent resemblances; and if so, prove that the original could not have been the handsome man he was reported to have been. An air of braggadocio characterises both portraits, conveying the impression of a bold captain of banditti, dressed in the rich spoils he had plundered, rather than of a person who had enacted so brilliant a part in the drama of life. But though the portraits have the air I have noticed, the countenance is remarkable for an expression of good humour; and I attribute the disagreeable effect produced by the pictures, to the profusion of black curls, whiskers, and moustachios, that nearly cover the face, and the swaggering posture of the figure; for the physiognomy is decidedly more expressive of good-nature than of fierceness. The children of Murat make very interesting portraits. One group is represented dancing the tarantella, the national Neapolitan dance; and another, the two elder sons, is painted in very rich uniforms, descending the steps of Herculaneum, attended by their preceptor and the *custode*, the light of whose torches falls on the figures of the two youths, and forms a good contrast with the darkness of the scene in which they are portrayed. A portrait of the ex-Queen of Spain, with two of her children, and pictures of some of the officers of the staff of Murat, are so execrable, that it is difficult to believe that, at such a recent period, the art of painting was at so low an ebb as these portraits prove it to have been; and it is still more difficult to imagine how persons accustomed to behold the treasures of art in the Louvre, could have borne to contemplate the wretched pictures at Portici. The only redeeming portrait in this collection, is that of Napoleon in his coronation robes, by Gérard, which is esteemed a fine likeness, and is well painted. The facility of viewing these pictures afforded by the present royal family, evinces a freedom from jealousy of their predecessors, and a confidence in the stability of their own power, that ought to be

gratifying to their subjects. We noticed a portrait of Salicetti, said to be remarkably like; the countenance of which would furnish a disciple of Lavater with a striking illustration of his theory, as it expresses all that is artful and malicious, which accords well with the reputation assigned to the original. Salicetti, *ci-devant* minister of police at Naples, acquired a certain degree of notoriety, partly by the vices attributed to him, and by the attempt made to blow up his house by an infernal machine; but, above all, by his death, which was caused by poison, said to have been administered in a dish of macaroni. There is no portrait of Madame Murat at Portici, which disappointed me, as I should have liked to see the resemblance of her of whom Talleyrand said, "*Elle avait la tête de Cromwell sur le corps d'une jolie femme. Née avec un grand caractère, de la grace, de l'amabilité, séduisante au-delà de toute expression, il ne lui manquait que de savoir cacher son amour pour la domination; et quand elle n'atteignait pas son but, c'était pour vouloir y arriver trop tôt.*"

Murat and his wife are remembered with kindness, if not lamented, by the Neapolitans. Both were considered to possess many good qualities; and the tragical death of him to whom not even his enemies could deny the reputation of *Le brave des braves*, has made as deep an impression on his *ci-devant* subjects, as their volatile natures are capable of receiving. Not that they would wish to see a descendant of his take the place of the actual sovereign, to whom it is said that they are very much attached; for, though the personal courage, generosity, and love of show that characterized Murat, endeared him to them, there exists between Ferdinand and his subjects, a strong bond of sympathy of taste and feeling. A passage in the King's first proclamation on his last return from Sicily, strikingly demonstrates this sympathy on his Majesty's part. It is as follows:—"Neapolitans, come and throw yourselves in my arms! I was born among you; I know and appreciate your habits, your characters, your manners, and I have no other desire, than to give you the most convincing proofs of my paternal love."

Though uneducated, the King of Naples is by no means deficient in natural ability. He is said to possess a more than ordinary degree of shrewdness; and delights in indulging in a sportive satire, always sure to be well received by his courtiers. A short time ago, when new clothing was required for the army, an officer suggested that it would be advisable to have the jacket padded over the chests, like those of the Austrians; stating that it was not only advantageous to the figure, but also served as a defence against the cut of a sabre. "Oh, for protecting the person," replied the King, laughing, "it is much better to have the jackets padded be-

hind." His Majesty is passionately attached to the chase, and devotes much of his time to it. He is an excellent shot; and the salutary effects of air and exercise are very visible in his appearance, as he is one of the most healthy and active sexagenarians I ever saw.

August 2nd.—Went yesterday to Pozzuoli and Baiæ, and wondered not, when I beheld these enchanting shores, that they were the favourite retreats of philosophers and poets, warriors, and statesmen, who fled to them from the turmoil of busy life, to enjoy that privacy and repose which Rome denied them. The mole of the port of Pozzuoli was a noble work. Two inscriptions have been discovered, which prove that it was restored by Adrian, and Antoninus the Pious. It had twenty-five arches, of which only thirteen remain. Caligula erected a bridge on two ranges of boats, which he united to the mole, and covered with planks, over which gravel was thrown. This bridge extended to Baiæ, and cost an enormous sum; the enterprise having, it is said, originated in Caligula's desire to imitate that of Xerxes, who built a bridge to pass from Asia into Greece. No trace of Caligula's bridge remains, though the cicerones, who conduct strangers over this interesting shore, point out the fragments of the mole for it. The amphitheatre, though much impaired by the ravages of time, and by an earthquake which greatly injured it, still constitutes a fine feature in the landscape. Its form is oval, and its extent was so vast, that it is said to have been capable of holding many thousand persons. Augustus is reported to have been present at a fête given in honour of him, at this amphitheatre; of which our cicerone related many marvels, not to be found in any of the histories relative to that emperor. In the interior of the building is a small chapel, dedicated to St. Januarius, the patron saint of Naples, which is held in great veneration by the Neapolitans. This chapel was built to commemorate a remarkable occurrence in the life of the saint; namely, his having been exposed to be devoured by a bear of more than common ferocity; who, awed by the sanctity of the pious Bishop of Beneventum, prostrated himself before him, and became docile as a tame dove. This miracle converted not less than five thousand persons to the Catholic faith; which so enraged Timotheus, the lieutenant of the cruel Diocletian, that he had the holy man immediately decapitated. His sanguinary death led to the preservation of the blood of the saint; and to the yearly repeated miracle of its liquefaction, so edifying to the lazzaroni of Naples.

Our cicerone seemed surprised at our devoting more time to the examination of the ruins of the amphitheatre, than to the chapel of St. Januarius; and observed, that it was strange that the English invariably did so; but then, added he, "they do not believe in

saints, though, maybe, one day they will repent their obstinate incredulity."

The temple of Serapis next attracted our attention, and a noble ruin it is. Three columns only remain; but they are of stupendous dimensions, and look as if spared by time, to serve as monuments to commemorate the ruin around them. At the bases of these colossal columns are scattered fragments of capitals and friezes, of bold design and admirable execution. The extent of the building may be traced; and two small chambers, said by some to have served as baths for the priests, alone remain; although it is asserted, that forty-two similar chambers once encircled the temple. Four flights of marble steps led to the centre of the edifice, which was of a circular form: near the base of one of them is a large brass ring, to which the victims to be sacrificed were fastened; and the receptacle for their blood, and the saw-dust and ashes thrown on it, is still visible. This temple was buried by an earthquake until the year 1750, when it was accidentally discovered by a peasant, which led to an excavation, that exposed these fine vestiges of antiquity to view. It is to be lamented that the Government of Naples, still more ruthless than time or the elements, has conspired to finish the work of destruction commenced by those destroyers; for columns and statues, that resisted the influence of both, have yielded to its mandates, and have been torn from the fane they adorned, to decorate palaces, or to encumber the courts of museums. They might have been safely permitted to occupy their original destination; for they were too massive to fall a prey to the cupidity of ciceroni, or the love of collecting of travellers. The vicinity of this temple is celebrated for its mineral waters, which are considered excellent in the cure of various diseases. Some modern baths have been erected on the spot, but their appliances are so disgusting, that most persons accustomed to cleanliness would prefer enduring a malady to trying the efficacy of this remedy.

In the centre of Pozzuoli stands the cathedral of St. Proculus, formerly the temple of Augustus. Six Corinthian columns of great beauty, still attest the original splendour of the building; and an inscription on the entablature informs us, that it was erected by Calphurnius, and dedicated to Octavia Augustus. A curious and interesting sarcophagus, discovered in the vicinity of Pozzuoli, next attracted our attention: It is remarkable, as furnishing a specimen of the decadence of the art of sculpture in the middle ages; to which period it bears irrefragable proof of owing its date, as it presents a mixture of Roman and Gothic taste, the latter however being the predominant.

We next visited the Solfatara, which offers a remarkable natural

phenomenon. It bears evident marks of being the crater of an extinct volcano; and at every step, nature may be seen busy in forming and crystalizing sulphur; specimens of which, in its various forms, and prismatic colours, may be viewed. On a stone being thrown against the surface of the Solfatara, it sends forth a loud reverberation, and a sound of gushing water is heard, which indicates some subterraneous river. From innumerable crevices in the white clay, liquid sulphur is seen issuing in streams; while from other fissures, vaporious exhalations are continually bursting forth. The ground shook beneath our footsteps, as we walked over the parts of the Solfatara that are passable; and on thrusting sticks into the soil, they instantly ignited, and gave a sulphurous odour.

The beautiful shore of Baiæ still retains so many attractions, as to justify the preference accorded to it by the Romans; but we had not time to explore its beauties, and reserve that pleasure for another day.

4th.—The more I see of the Neapolitans, the better I like them. I have not detected among the individuals of the lower class that have fallen in my way, a single instance of the rapaciousness so generally, and I am inclined to think so unjustly, attributed to them by strangers. Their politeness has nothing in it of servility; and their good humour is neither coarse nor boisterous. The gardeners, and their wives and families, appertaining to the Palazzo-Belvedere, seem actuated by an unceasing desire to please us. Fresh flowers are sent in by them, every morning, for the apartments; the finest figs, and grapes, are offered for our acceptance; and smiling faces and courteous enquiries about the health of every individual of the family meet us, whenever we encounter any of them. They sing, and not inharmoniously, while at work in the garden; occasionally duos and trios, and at other times, one begins a song descriptive of rural occupations and his companions answer it. There is something inexpressibly charming to me, in these wild airs; but perhaps they owe much of their attraction to the delicious atmosphere in which I hear them, which disposes the mind to be pleased. No night passes in which these good people, joined by the *custode* and his family, do not dance the *tarantella* in the court yard, to the music of their own voices, accompanied by the *tambour de basque*. Old and young all join in this national dance, with a gaiety it is quite exhilarating to witness. Among the various *agrémens* of the pleasure-grounds of the Palazzo-Belvedere is a theatre, formed of trees and plants, the proscenium elevated, and of verdant turf, and the seats of marble; the different rows divided by cut box and ilex, which grow so luxuriously, as to screen the passages of which they form the separation. To this rural theatre it is delightful to resort, during the heat of the day; the rays of the sun being

excluded by the thick foliage of the trees that surround it. Here flowers, fruit, and iced lemonade are placed, while drawing, working, and reading, occupy the individuals of our circle. From this charming retreat, it is most pleasant to see the sun-beams piercing the leafy covert that excludes their too fervid heat, and giving to the leaves of the laurels, laurestinas, and ilex, the rich tint of the emerald. The blue sky too, beheld through the openings of the foliage, looks beautiful; and, like all around, conspires to remind us that we are in a favoured clime.

We are told that the Italians writhe under the despotism of their rulers; but nowhere have I seen such happy faces. Men, women, and children, all appear to feel the influence of the delicious atmosphere in which they live; an atmosphere that seems to exclude care and sorrow. But in excluding these rude assailants of the human kind, I fear that it also excludes the grave and sober reflection so essential to the formation of an elevated mind, or to the support of a well directed one. It engenders a dreamy sort of reverie, during which, the book or the pen is often thrown down, and the *dolce far niente* is indulged in even by those who, in their native land, have never known its effeminate pleasure. Italy is the country to which a person borne down by care, or overworked by business, should resort. Its climate will serve as an anodyne to induce the required repose; and the happy faces that on every side present themselves, will dispose to cheerfulness. But to the ductile minds of youth, whom no care has stricken, no sorrow seared, this voluptuous region is ill suited; for vigorous must be the understanding that resists its dangerous influence. To live, is here so positive an enjoyment, that the usual motives and incentives to study and usefulness are forgotten, in the enervating and dreamy enjoyment to which the climate gives birth.

A lady talking to me, a day or two ago, on the effect of the Italian clime on female beauty, remarked that it acted as a hot-house on rose buds, but quickly withered full-blown roses. It certainly is true, that women of twenty-five in Italy look quite as *passées*, as those of thirty-five in England; and after twenty, they lose that freshness of complexion which constitutes so great a charm in our young women. I have seen here, women quite as delicately fair, nay, perhaps, still more so, than in England; but they are deficient in that transparency of skin, through which the blood speaks so eloquently in our climate, and look rather as if blanched by the sun into fairness, than born with it. In short, they want the appearance of youth, which is the greatest charm of every face; and the absence of which no beauty can compensate.

Naples was, last night and this morning, visited by the most violent storm of thunder and lightning I ever witnessed. The flashes

were so vivid, that they illuminated the rooms as if a thousand torches gleamed through them; and the thunder pealed, as if innumerable cannons were fired, the sounds loudly reverberated by the hollow soil of this volcanic country. I looked on the sea from my window, and the effect of the lightning upon it was indescribably grand. As its forked bolts, like arrows of fire, darted from the heavens, and flew along the surface of the water until they sank into its bosom, it seemed as if, at their approach, some phosphoric quality in the sea rose to meet them, in a blaze of light; while the loud thunder was heard to peal, and the earth appeared to rock to its centre. This mighty war of the elements was indeed a splendid sight, and all personal fear was quelled by its grandeur; self was forgotten in the sublimity of the scene, and one had only the consciousness of being but as an atom, too insignificant to be endangered by so tremendous an engine. There are moments when a sense of our own littleness is so forced upon us, that we think of ourselves but as motes in a sun-beam.

6th.—A visit from —, who fills a high office at court. He told us that the lightning yesterday morning struck the bed in which the Princess Christine was reposing; and that two of her ladies who were in the apartment concluded that her Royal Highness was killed, so violent was the report of the crash, and of the falling to pieces of the bed. The Princess, without the least symptom of dismay, sprang from the fallen mattresses, before her ladies could afford her any assistance; and while they trembled at the danger to which she had been exposed, she bantered them on their pusillanimity. The courage, of which this incident furnishes an example, is said to be remarkable in one so young and delicately formed. I hope it may never be put to any worse proofs,

7th.—Sir William Gell is a great acquisition to Naples. His house is the rendezvous of all the distinguished travellers who visit it, where maps, books, and his invaluable advice, are at the service of all who come recommended to his notice. The extent and versatility of his information are truly surprising; and his memory is so tenacious, that the knowledge of any subject once acquired is never forgotten. Although a prey to disease, gout and rheumatism having deprived him of the power of locomotion, his cheerfulness is unvarying, and his temper unalterable. He opposes an unconquerable stoicism to the assaults of pain; but it is only against pain that the existence of this stern quality is made known, for a kinder heart, or one more ready to sympathise with the cares of others, does not exist. His society is justly appreciated at Naples, and universally sought. It is curious to see him supported into a room by two persons, his body offering the melancholy picture of cureless decrepitude, while his face still preserves

a youthful and healthy appearance. He is the most lively and amusing companion imaginable; possessing a perfect knowledge of life, without having lost the least portion of the freshness of mind or goodness of heart which such a knowledge is supposed to impair. He has offered to be my cicerone to Pompeii, and was pleased at discovering that I had studied his admirable work on it.

8th.—Drove to the *Grotto de' Cani* to-day, and witnessed the cruel and daily-repeated experiment of exposing a poor dog to its mephitic vapours. The wretched animal, when called by his rapacious owner, shrank back with evident trepidation; and when seized by him, whined in so piteous a manner, as to convince me how much he dreaded the trial to which he was forced to submit. He was held down close to the spot whence the noxious vapour arises, and in a very short time gave proofs of its destructive effects. His body became convulsed, his eyes glared, and his tongue protruded, and this state of suffering was followed by a total prostration of strength, and semblance of death. He was plunged into the lake Agnano, which is near the grotto; and in the space of ten minutes recovered, and assumed his ordinary appearance. I remonstrated with his owner on the cruelty of the treatment of this poor animal: but was answered, that "he was so accustomed to it that he did not mind it in the least, and that his apparent reluctance and whining were only proofs of his cunning," used to extort some dainty morsel from his master.

The Lago d'Agnano is also the crater of a volcano. On its banks are some ruins, said to be the remains of a villa of Lucullus, that celebrated epicurean of antiquity, whose luxurious suppers are recorded. He opened a communication between this lake and the sea, that the former might serve as a fish-pond to administer to his predominant passion for dainties. Strange and grovelling propensity, which converts the temple of the soul into the sepulchre of fish, flesh, and fowl! giving to the bloated gourmand who consumes them many of the infirmities to which all gourmands are a prey.

From the Lago d'Agnano, our cicerone would fain lead us to the vapour baths of San Germano; but I declined, having an extreme dislike to examine remedies for maladies from which, Heaven be thanked! I am as yet exempt. But he would not be denied the gratification of showing us the Pisciarelli, a streamlet of hot water which cooks an egg in eight minutes; of which fact he gave us ocular demonstration, having come provided with an egg in his pocket.

9th.—Mr. Mathias, the reputed author of "*Pursuits of Literature*," dined with us yesterday. He is far advanced in years,

of diminutive stature, but remarkably lively and vivacious. He is devoted to Italian poetry, and is a proficient in that language, into which he has translated several English poems. His choice in the selection has not always been fortunate. He resents with warmth the imputation of having written the "Pursuits of Literature:" not that he would not be vain of the erudition displayed in that work, but because some of the persons severely treated in it were so indignant, that he positively denied the authorship, though the denial has convinced no one. Mathias' conversation is interesting only on Italian literature. His *friends* (commend me to friends for always exposing the defects or *petits ridicules* of those they profess to like), had prepared me for his peculiarities; and he very soon gave proofs of the correctness of their reports. One of these peculiarities is an extraordinary tenacity of memory respecting the dates at which he, for the first time of the season, had eaten green peas, or any other early culinary delicacy; another is the continual exclamation of "God bless my soul!" Dinner was not half over before he told us on what days he had eaten spring chickens, green peas, aubergine, and a half hundred other dainties; and at each *entremet* that was offered him, he exclaimed, "What a delicious dish!—God bless my soul!" Mr. Mathias has an exceeding dread of being ridden or driven over in the crowded streets of Naples; and has often been known to stop an hour before he could muster courage to cross the Chiaja. Being known and respected in the town, many coachmen pause in order to give him time to cross without being alarmed; but in vain, for he advances half way, then stops, terrified at his imaginary danger, and rushes back, exclaiming "God bless my soul!" It is only when he meets some acquaintance, who gives him the support of an arm, that he acquires sufficient resolution to pass to the other side of a street. While he was dining in a *café*, a few days ago, a violent shower of rain fell, and pattering against the Venetian blinds with great noise, Sir William Gell observed that it rained dogs and cats; at which moment a dog rushed in at one door of the *café*, and a frightened cat in at the other. "God bless my soul," exclaimed Mathias, gravely, "so it does! so it does! who would have believed it." This exclamation excited no little merriment; and Mathias resented it by not speaking to the laughers for some days.

10th.—Went to the Opera last night, but the heat was so oppressive, as to render it anything but a pleasure. The heat at Naples is different from that of Rome, and has in it a dry, scorching warmth, that reminds one that this is a volcanic country. San Carlo is a magnificent theatre, both in size and decoration. The boxes are roomy and well ventilated, and the parterre is all divided

into stalls. The royal box is in the centre of the house, and forms a very striking and ornamental object. It projects considerably, is supported on gilded palm trees, and is surmounted by a large crown; from which descends, on each side, a mass of drapery, apparently of metal painted and gilt, to resemble cloth of gold, which is held up by figures of Fame. The interior is cased with panels of looking-glass; and fitted up with crimson velvet, trimmed with bullion fringe. This box is seldom occupied by its royal owner, or any of his family. His Majesty sits in a large private box, near the stage, attended by two officers of state. The hereditary Prince and Princess, with their family, which is very numerous, occupy a very large box near that of the King. The Princess Christine looked exceedingly pretty last night; and many a furtive glance was cast towards her,—a homage that did not seem offensive to her feelings, if one might judge by her countenance, although it is strongly disapproved by the elders of the royal family. Curious stories are told on this subject at Naples; and it is asserted, that more than one young noble has been advised to travel for his health, because detected in looking too often towards the pretty Christine. Fodore and Lablache sang last night. The voice of the former has lost none of its thrilling sweetness since I heard her in London; and the latter has one of the finest voices imaginable, added to which, he is an inimitable actor. We English *talk* of music, but the Italians *feel* it. Not a sound interrupted the “sweetness long drawn out” of the singers, who seemed aware that they were singing before competent judges, so carefully and admirably did they give the music allotted to them. None of the noisy efforts, so sure to be received with plaudits by the greater mass of an English audience, were ventured here, nor would they be tolerated. Refinement and pathos, are substituted for those loud tones we too often hear in London; which, however they may prove the force of lungs of the singer, speak little for the musical taste of his audience. The King seems to be as partial to dancers as to singers, for he applauded Mademoiselle le Gros last night, quite as rapturously as he had done Madame Fodore, half an hour before. I can sympathize with the love of music, in an old man, but a love of dancing in a sexagenarian has something unseemly in it.

11th.—I have rarely met so gifted a person as Sir William Drummond, who dined with us yesterday. To a profound erudition in classical lore, he joins a great variety of other knowledge, being an adept in modern literature, mineralogy, chemistry, and astronomy. The treasures of his capacious mind are brought into action in his conversation, which is at once erudite, brilliant, and playful. To these qualifications for forming a delight-

ful companion, he adds a good-breeding which, while it possesses all the *politesse* of *la vieille cour*, has nothing of its cold ceremoniousness. His mind is so thoroughly imbued with classical imagery, that his conversation might be deemed a little pedantic, were it not continually enlivened by flashes of an imagination so fertile, and a fancy so brilliant, that these natural endowments throw into shade the acquired ones, with which a life of study has enriched him. It is very amusing to observe the difference that exists between the minds of Sir William Drummond and his friend Sir William Gell. That of the first elevated and refined to such a degree, that a fastidiousness of taste, amounting almost to a morbid feeling of uneasiness in a contact with inferior intellects, is the result; a result which not all his good-breeding can prevent from being perceptible to those who are quick-sighted. That of the other, not elevated by its great acquirements, but rendering them subservient to the bent of his humour, converts them into subjects of raillery and ridicule, very often piquant, and always droll. The heroes of antiquity, when referred to by Sir William Drummond, are invested with new dignity; but when alluded to by Sir William Gell, are travestied so comically, that they become ludicrous. So far from possessing the morbid fastidiousness of his friend, with respect to his associates, Gell, though he can appreciate superior minds, can find pleasure in a contact with the most inferior, and by eliciting the ridiculous points of their characters, render them subjects of amusement. His drollery is irresistible; and what renders it more piquant is the grave expression of his countenance, which maintains its seriousness, while those around him are excited to laughter, by the comicality of his sallies. He views every object through the medium of ridicule, and as a subject for pleasantry. Even his own infirmities are thus treated by him; so that he may really lay claim to the character of a laughing philosopher, if he cannot arrogate the more elevated one of a profound thinker.

12th.—Spent several hours yesterday at the Museo Borbonico, a delightful lounge in this sultry weather.

The treasures found at Herculaneum and Pompeii possess an irresistible attraction for me, not from their singular beauty and fitness only, but from the associations they awaken. To touch objects that for many centuries were buried from the gaze of men, amid the ruins that served as a tomb to their owners, excites a feeling that no other objects of art, however beautiful, can awaken. The finest statue of antiquity gives but a personification of the *beau idéal* of the sculptor who formed it. Many living models were referred to, ere one of these *chefs-d'œuvre* of art grew into the cold but faultless beauty we gaze on. Hence, reality is lost in their perfection; while, in the busts and statues of persons dis-

covered at Herculaneum and Pompeii, the ideal is sacrificed to truth; and an individuality is so strikingly visible in them, that one could, at a glance, pronounce that they must resemble the originals. The busts of a young lady of the Balbi family, found at Herculaneum, and the mother of Balbus from the same place, though far from offering specimens of female loveliness, are so full of truth and nature, that a physiognomist might pronounce on their respective dispositions; and hence they possess a charm for me, not often found in more beautiful works of art. There is no end to the pagan gods and goddesses in this museum. Minervas, Junos, and Venuses, are jostled by satyrs and fauns; and Jupiters, Apollos, Mercuries, and Cupids, are mingled among the less dignified river gods, Ganymedes, gladiators, and the more vile emperors; some of the countenances of the latter bearing the impress of the vices attributed to them. One might remain for hours in this museum, without feeling time pass heavily, so occupied is the mind by the diversity of objects that court the eye.

The works of the Greek sculptors soon make themselves felt; and even an amateur can quickly distinguish them from those of their Roman imitators. The climate of Greece must surely have had a powerful influence, not only on the persons of its inhabitants, but over the minds of its artists; or they never could have produced the *chefs-d'œuvre* they have bequeathed to us. The diet, too, must have had its operation; and I am inclined to think that, had fat beef and porter been the prevalent food and beverage of Greece, we should not behold the works that now delight us. Neither the models nor the sculptors would have been so spiritualized; for the minds of the latter would have become as heavy as the figures of the former.

I was amused by the observation of an English girl, of about ten years old; who exclaimed, on seeing a Neptune, "Oh, dear mamma, only fancy, here is a Neptune, a real Neptune too, with a fork. How strange! I thought that Neptune belonged only to England. I imagined there was but one Neptune."

The sitting statue of Agrippina, is admirable. It is at once dignified and noble, though the expression of the face is sorrowful. There is no straining after theatrical effect, in the statues of antiquity: and the absence of this meretricious and frequent fault of modern sculptors, forms one of their greatest charms. The history of the mother of Nero is impressed on this image of her; and the effect produced on the mind by its contemplation, partakes of the melancholy character that appertains to it. In a statue of Nero, in his boyhood, one looks in vain for any indication of the passions that, in maturity, rendered him a blot in human nature. The face is peculiarly handsome, and the character of the counte-

nance is that of mildness. Yet even when this image of him was sculptured, the germs of the vices, which afterwards rendered him so fearful a monster, were in embryo; and the recollection of them impels the gazer to turn with horror from a face that otherwise might claim admiration; so faultless are its features, and so gentle is its expression. The Antinous of Naples is far inferior to that of Rome, offering merely physical beauty; while the other possessed a more elevated character.

13th.—Drove yesterday to Cumæ. A delicious day; the sea blue, and calm as the skies that canopied it. Saw the vestiges of the celebrated Villa of Cicero, consisting of a subterraneous place, said by some to have been a wine-cellar, and by others, to have been a bath. The Arco Felice, which we ascended with difficulty, commands a charming prospect of the different islands with which the lovely bay is studded; and which arise from the blue waters, as if fresh from the Creator's hands; their verdure scarcely less brilliant than the liquid-mirror that reflects them. Fragments of ruins, overgrown by vegetation, intersect the route at every side. Some of them are exceedingly curious and picturesque, and add greatly to the beauty of the scenery; although this union of the ruins of antiquity, with a nature so vigorous and smiling as that which surrounds them, chastens the gaiety to which so luxuriant a landscape would otherwise give birth. One of the streets of the ancient Cumæ may still be distinctly traced. Numberless birds were flitting from branch to branch, in the trees and hedges that have sprung up among its ruins; and their glad carols formed a contrast with the crumbling masses of stone scattered about, attesting the ruin and desolation of the place. The mind is divided between classical associations of the past, and admiration for the beauty of the present scenery, while wandering through spots described by Pliny, and sung by Virgil; whose fictions seem invested with something of truth, when we behold the sites of the scenes which he represents. The ciceroni invariably confound the true and the fabulous together, in their accounts of the spots and ruins they attempt to illustrate, and this jumble of mythological and historical lore is sometimes amusing. The Grot of the Sybil at Cumæ, is situated under the hill on which once stood the Temple of Apollo, described by Virgil in the *Æneid* as having been built by Dædalus, to commemorate the spot where he alighted.

“To the Cumæan coast at length he came,
And, here alighting, built his costly frame
Inscribed to Phœbus; here he hung on high
The steerage of his wings that cut the sky.”

It is asserted that a subterraneous passage, close to the lake

Avernus, communicated with this grotto ; but the earth has fallen in, and so filled the cavern, as to preclude its being explored more than eighty or a hundred yards ; nor does it, to that extent, offer anything to repay the trouble of the explorer.

Near Cumæ, are the Elysian Fields, which are approached by a path through a very pretty vineyard. The Mare Mortuum is passed on this route, as are several interesting ruins of sepulchres, half covered with foliage, which have a beautiful effect. The solitude and repose that pervade Cumæ, where nought is heard but the distant murmur of the sea, and the lively carols of the birds ; and where nought is seen but the bright verdure of this fruitful soil, and the classical ruins that are mingled with it, have so soothing an effect on the mind, that one wishes the importunate cicerone, with his impertinent explanations, far away, that the liberty of a solitary ramble, unbroken by his clamorous descriptions, might be enjoyed. How striking is the silence of the ruined Cumæ, when compared with the accounts of its former state ! Lucan, in the poem to Piso, refers to it in the lines—

“ Where the famed walls of fruitful Naples lie,
That may for multitudes with Cumæ vie.”

Those multitudes are swept away from the earth ; and scarcely a vestige even of the tombs that held their ashes is left to mark the spot, where they lived, joyed, sorrowed, and died, beneath a sky as blue and beautiful as the one that now I gaze on.

On pausing to view the Lucrine lake, our cicerone lamented that it is at present innoxious, its poisonous vapours having disappeared. Birds, he remarked with a deep sigh, no longer dropped dead when hovering near it, consequently the spot was not nearly so much frequented, as when the lake offered this interesting sight ; people always, as he said, flocking to see that which is disagreeable, in preference to that which is beautiful. On my observing, it was probably to the destruction of the woods, which once encircled the lake, that it owed its redemption from the poisonous exhalations that formerly rendered an approach to it so dangerous, he gravely undertook to explain to me, that this supposition must be erroneous : for that it was well known in the neighbourhood, that this cruel visitation of Providence was occasioned by the wickedness of a cicerone, some hundreds of years before, who, tempted by cupidity, led a stranger, whose purse he coveted, close to the banks of the lake, hoping to see him, like the birds, drop dead ; when, to his astonishment and confusion, no symptom of illness appeared in the traveller. From that day the lake never sent forth a noxious vapour ; and the wicked cicerone lost the mighty gains he and his forefathers had amassed, by the crowds who were wont to visit this wonderful lake. I ventured to sug-

gest, that if the vapours could have destroyed the stranger, how was the cicerone to escape? But this little difficulty he quickly surmounted, by telling me that the cicerone was acquainted with an antidote, of which he always availed himself. "What a happy life," continued he, "does the *custode* of the Grotta del Cane lead! He has nothing to do but open the door of the grotto, pull in the dog, hold it down until apparently dead, and then recover it again, and carlinis come showering into his hat in plenty; while I have to wander over many miles, showing ruins that few care about, and earning hardly enough to pay for the shoes I wear out. Ah!—yes, he of the grotto leads a happy life!"

It is now many days since my journal has been opened; for idleness, the besetting sin of this place, has taken possession of me. I shall journalize no more; but merely write down, whenever in the humour, what occurs, or what I see. O the *dolce far niente* of an Italian life! who can resist its influence?—not I, at least.

The streets of Naples present daily the appearance of a fête. The animation and gay dresses of the lower classes of the people, and the crowds who flock about, convey this impression. Nowhere does the stream of life seem to flow so rapidly as here; not like the dense and turbid flood that rushes along Fleet Street and the Strand in London; but a current that sparkles while hurrying on. The lower classes of Naples observe no medium between the slumber of exhaustion and the fever of excitement; and, to my thinking, expend more of vitality in one day than the same class in our colder regions do in three. They are never calm or quiet. Their conversation, no matter on what topic, is carried on with an animation and gesticulation unknown to us. Their friendly salutations might, by a stranger, be mistaken for the commencement of a quarrel, so vehement and loud are their exclamations; and their disagreements are conducted with a fiery wrath which reminds one that they belong to a land in whose volcanic nature they strongly participate. Quickly excited to anger, they are as quickly propitiated; and are not prone to indulge rancorous feelings. It is fortunate that this sensitive people are not, like ours, disposed to habits of intoxication. Lemonade here is sought with the same avidity that ardent spirits are in England; and this cooling beverage, joined to the universal use of macaroni, is happily calculated to allay the fire of their temperaments. The Neapolitans are even more partial to theatrical exhibitions than are the French. Numerous small theatres, the price of admission to which is so trifling that the poorest persons can command it, are crowded to excess; and the streets, squares, and mole, have itinerant performers, in the shape of rope-dancers, puppet-shows, and reciters,

always surrounded by applauding audiences. Instead of printed play-bills to announce the performances in the minor theatres, the walls in their vicinity are covered with gaudy sketches of the principal scenes, which attract those who intend to witness the entertainment, and satisfy those who are too prudent to pay the admission. The King joins in the popular admiration for theatrical representations, and is not very fastidious in his taste.

Went yesterday to see the palazzo called the Favorita, the position of which is very agreeable. While in one of the rooms commanding a view of the entrance, the King arrived in an unpretending and simple *calèche*, drawn by a pair of horses, and attended by two servants in plain liveries. He wore a grey frock coat, high boots, and a broad leaved hat. He looked the very picture of a respectable farmer: his tall and muscular figure touched, but not bent by age; his clear and ruddy complexion offering a pleasing contrast to the snowy locks and whiskers that edged his cheeks. His Majesty had scarcely entered the garden, when two of the under-gardeners ran up to him with demonstrations of the liveliest joy, and seizing the royal hands, kissed them repeatedly with a hearty warmth. The good-natured monarch permitted the familiarity with an air of benevolence very gratifying to witness, and smiled complacently at the vehement benedictions of his humble admirers, as, with light but firm step, he walked rapidly from flower-bed to flower-bed, examining all. The Neapolitan King has evidently a distaste for show and parade; and enjoys the freedom from ceremony and constraint which his simple habits have insured him. He seldom remains more than a few days at any of the royal palaces; and goes from Naples to Capo di Monte, thence to Caserta, to Portici, and the Favorita (about a mile distant) in turn, taking with him but two or three domestics. His sleeping-rooms in each of his palaces exactly resemble each other. A small, but well-ventilated apartment, a diminutive bed, with dimity curtains white as snow, and furniture of the plainest materials, but all scrupulously clean, is appropriated to the King. A dressing-closet, with every appliance for ablution, joins the sleeping-room; and the *toilette* apparatus is as unostentatious as that of any private gentleman in his Majesty's dominions. The extreme simplicity of the King's private apartments form a remarkable contrast with those of the Princess Partano, which combine all that luxury can suggest, or wealth supply. The Favorita contains nothing worthy of note.

Went to see the Archbishop of Tarentum yesterday. Fame has not exaggerated the attractions of his manner, or the charms of his countenance, in both of which the most winning suavity and benevolence are visible. The refined politeness that characterises his manners is mingled with a warmth that renders them very

fascinating. It was pleasant to see the affectionate terms on which he and Sir William Gell are ; and to observe the interest he takes in every new discovery in art and science. This amiable and venerable prelate, so universally beloved by his compatriots, and so much esteemed and respected by ours, is now far advanced in years ; but his mental faculties are in full vigour. His conversation is lively and animated, abounding in information, which is never obtruded to display the extent of his erudition, but is introduced according to whatever subject others converse on. He possesses some very fine pictures, and rare antiquities, which he takes great delight in showing : among the latter, are two *bassirilievi* of mosaic, considered to be most rare, if not unique. The Archbishop presents the most perfect personification of the *beau-ideal* of a venerable father of the church, that I have ever beheld. His face, peculiarly handsome, is sicklied o'er with the pale hue of thought ; his eyes are of the darkest brown, but soft, and full of sensibility, like those of a woman. His hair is white as snow, and contrasts well with the small black silk *calotte* that crowns the top of his head. His figure is attenuated, and bowed by age, and his limbs are small and delicate. His dress is neat even to elegance, and his whole appearance must strike every beholder as being one of the most prepossessing imaginable. He has given us a pressing invitation to come often to visit him ; a privilege of which I intend to avail myself.

Pompeii has surpassed my expectations. I could not have seen it under more favourable auspices ; for Sir William Gell, who has studied it *con amore*, accompanied us. Every step taken in this City of the Dead teems with recollections of the past, and offers subjects for meditation. We entered Pompeii by the Street of the Tombs, which presents one of the most striking and impressive scenes imaginable. On each side, elevated above the footway, a succession of funereal monuments meets the eye, many of them in fine preservation, beautiful in design and execution, and with their inscriptions still undefaced,—the destruction that overwhelmed the habitations of the living, having been more lenient to the homes of the dead. The Romans had a fine moral intention in placing the tombs of the dead in public situations ; for not only were reflections on the brevity of life thus brought more frequently and impressively before them, but an incitement was given to merit posthumous distinction, by having the honours rendered to the great and good of the departed continually displayed before the eyes of their survivors.

The streets of Pompeii are paved with blocks of lava, well joined together, and the marks of wheels are visible in many of them ; but the chariots, and their drivers—where are they ? This use of lava

proves the occurrence of an eruption previous to the one so destructive to this city; although there is, I believe, no record to be found, of any prior one, in history. At each side of the streets are raised *trottoirs*, divided from the centre by kerb-stones, pierced for chains to pass through them. On approaching the Herculaneum gate, by which Pompeii is entered from the Naples road, a large pedestal is observed on the left, supposed to have borne a colossal statue of bronze, some fragments of a drapery of that metal having been found close to it. On the right is an arched alcove, round which is a bench of marble. An altar, with a very beautiful bronze tripod, stood in the centre, (and are now in the Museum,) and this gave rise to the supposition that the alcove was dedicated to some sylvan deity. To me it appeared simply as a *reposoir*, erected for the convenience of persons to wait in until the gate was opened, as it stands very close to it. The gate, although the principal entrance to Pompeii, is not remarkable for its design or execution. It consists of an archway in the centre for carriages, with an opening at each side for pedestrians, and is built of brick and faced with stucco, on which many inscriptions and ordinances are visible. A skeleton, with a spear still grasped in its hand, was found in the *reposoir*, and is supposed to have been that of a sentinel, who met death at his post, the spear held even in death attesting his constancy to duty. This gate is by no means in harmony with the Street of Tombs, to which it forms the entrance; and the pure white of the marble of which the monuments are composed is strangely contrasted with the discoloured cement that covers it. The villa named Suburbana, but better known as that of Diomedes, next attracts attention. It is considered to be one of the most spacious, but in its general construction bears little indication of good taste. It is placed on an eminence, gently sloping towards the sea, and consisted of two stories. The best rooms opened on a terrace, extending the length of the house, and above a garden. The basement story has an arcade in front, and comprises several apartments, which, like those above them, have painted walls and mosaic pavements. One of these rooms had a large glazed bay window, of the glass, of which particles were found, set in leaden frames. A bath, with every possible appendage for comfort, was among the *agrémens* of this villa; and proves that its owner understood the advantage of this healthful and luxurious mode of ablution, so much more generally in use with foreigners than with us. Sir William Gell called our attention to the Cavædium in this villa, as being the largest at Pompeii. The centre of the roof is supported by peristyles, and water is conveyed by a channel into cisterns at the extremities of the Cavædium, with puteals placed over them. The columns are covered with stucco, and painted red, which has

a very bad effect. The portico around the garden is extremely poor, the piers thin, and the openings alternately wide and narrow. In the cellars are several earthen amphoræ ranged against the walls, in the same order in which they stood two thousand years ago. They are filled with an earthy substance, portions of which have cemented the amphoræ together, as if glued to each other. Twenty-three human skeletons were found in these cellars, supposed to have been the remains of those who had fled thither for refuge in the first hours of destruction, but who only found there a prolongation of their sufferings; for the volcanic matter penetrated through the loop-holes of the building in so impalpable a powder, that it must have taken some days to have filled the cellars sufficiently to have caused suffocation, by which it is imagined those wretched mortals met death. The impressions of the forms of some of the persons are still visible on the walls against which they reclined, the moist powder having formed moulds round them. Various ornaments, chiefly female ones, were found with the skeletons, as also coins of gold, silver, and brass. At the entrance of the house two skeletons were discovered; one still grasped a purse containing many coins and medals,—proving that avarice, the ruling passion, was strong even in death,—while the other hand held the key of the dwelling. Vases of bronze, and other articles of value, were found near the other skeleton.

This villa, when first discovered, was supposed to have been that of Cicero, referred to in his letters to Atticus; latterly, however, it is affirmed to have belonged to Diomedes, a magistrate of Pompeii; but both suppositions are supported by conjecture only. Sir William Gell pointed out to us some ruined buildings in Pompeii, the appearance of which indicate that their destruction was prior to the general one that overwhelmed the city: and this he receives as proof of the statement of Seneca, that Pompeii suffered severely by an earthquake in the ninth year of the reign of Nero, sixteen years previous to the eruption. The inhabitants, although they had commenced, had not completed the restoration of many of the buildings, which accounts for the unfinished state in which many of them have been found. The repairs speak little for the taste of the Pompeians, as, in most instances, that which appears to have been originally good, has been spoilt in the restoration. For example, in the Temple of Venus, several Grecian entablatures, in tolerable taste, have been barbarously plastered over and painted, transforming them from a pure Grecian to a bad Roman style. In many buildings we observed Ionic columns formed of tufo, cased by brickwork, plastered over, and painted to resemble Doric. Nothing can be more meretricious than the general effect of these painted columns; indeed, in all parts of Pompeii, purity of taste

has been sacrificed to glare and gaudiness of decoration. So ill-constructed, too, were the houses, that they owe their durability solely to the cement, so lavishly used that every wall was encased in it, and in many instances, the stucco was not less than six inches thick.

The Temple of Jupiter, supposed by some to have been that of Ceres, is a parallelogram. The columns are in tufo, thickly encased with cement, and are of the Corinthian order: the capitals are said to resemble those of the circular Temple of Tivoli. The ceiling of the portico being of considerable width, must have looked heavy, from the want of internal columns to support it; the side columns are too close to the wall, leaving the space too wide for the length, and for the effect of the ceiling. The side walls are painted in panels, with a variety of ornaments, which look paltry, and unsuitable to the interior of so large a temple; and the unity of the design is much impaired by a small building at the end, added, most probably, subsequently to the completion of the temple.

The houses in Pompeii are, for the most part, on a small scale. They have a court of narrow dimensions in the centre, around which the apartments branch off, and into which they open. The rooms are lighted only by apertures in, or above the doors, or sometimes by a scanty window into the court; and are so small and ill-ventilated, as to confirm the received opinion, that the Pompeians spent but little of their time in their dwellings, save for the purposes of eating or sleeping. Consequently, it may be supposed that they were unacquainted with the elegancies and comforts of *home*—that blessing, the very name of which calls up so many fond and delightful associations to our minds. The number and extent of the theatres of the ancients prove that the privacy of domestic life was little known amongst them; and that the hours not occupied by business were devoted to public amusements. Some few of the houses were, however, on a larger scale, and retain traces of elegance in their interior arrangements. The dwellings of Pansa, and of Sallust, may be ranked among the most superior of these. The Cavœdia in both are larger and better lighted, having a dome or impluvium, which conveyed water into a marble basin in the centre of the apartment, which basin was called a compluvium, and gave coolness to the air, in a climate, and in apartments where it must have been so much needed. Beyond the Cavœdium was the peristyle, into which opened the eating-room, with its triclinium. The apartments of the women were separated from those of the men by the peristyle, into which they opened. The walls of these various rooms still retain fragments of the paintings that once ornamented them, possessing a degree of spirit and beauty that prove the excellence which the Pompeians had attained in this branch of

the fine arts. The pavements, too, exhibit some good specimens of mosaic.

Glad as I was to profit by the *savoir* of Sir William Gell, whose acquaintance with Pompeii and its antiquities renders him the best cicerone in Italy, yet I could have wished to ramble alone through this City of the Dead, which appealed so forcibly to my imagination, conjuring up its departed inhabitants, instead of listening to erudite details of their dwellings, and the uses of each article appertaining to them. When we paused before a shop, said to be a *restaurant's*, with the marks of the cups still visible on the marble counter, it was difficult to believe that the stain which appeared so fresh was nearly two thousand years old. The dairy-shop, too, with its sign of a she-goat over the door, looked as if lately tenanted; and the barracks, with its guard-room, in which were still the stocks used as a punishment for the soldiers, and the walls inscribed with names, verses, and rude drawings, precisely, as I am told, in a similar style to those scribbled by our soldiers in their guard-rooms—made the mind revert to past times, and filled up the scene with the imaginary resemblances of those who once occupied it. On finding myself occasionally alone in some apartment of the dwellings in Pompeii, the paintings still fresh and glowing on the walls, and the pavements with their bright devices still unfaded, I felt as if intruding, an unbidden guest, in some mansion, whose owners had but lately left it: and the echoes of the voices of my companions, from other buildings, sounded strangely in my ears, as if they were those of the departed hosts, reproaching me for thus unceremoniously exploring the secret recesses of their domestic privacy.

In each of these abodes the drama of life had been enacted. Rejoicing and sorrowing had, as in all earthly dwellings, alternately followed each other; but the actors!—where were they? My eyes involuntarily turned to Vesuvius, the cause of the destruction around me. There it was, tranquil as a sleeping child, and bearing no indication of its dangerous properties, save a light blue smoke, ascending to the sky, like that seen floating from some peaceful cottage in happy England. Yes—happy! exempt as it is from the fearful visitations of earthquakes and volcanoes that ravage other lands, and in a few hours transform scenes of fertility and beauty into sterile masses and heaps of ruins. How often must the dwellers in Pompeii have looked at this blue mountain as a picturesque object of view, seen through smiling vineyards crowning the prospect, little dreaming that one day it was to overwhelm them with destruction. How fearful must have been their situation when they beheld the atmosphere become dense with the fiery exhalations, and this once serene and admired mountain pour

forth terrific showers of pumice-stone, lava, and burning sand ! When they fled from their late peaceful homes towards the sea, the earth no longer appearing to them a safe place to rest on, what despair must they have known when they saw even this, their last refuge, become agitated as the trembling ground over which they tottered, and then recede wildly from the shore, as if impelled by a desire to fly from its dangerous vicinity—wave mounting wave in their rapid flight from the reeling land, whence arose the wailing of those who saw themselves doomed to destruction ! So rapidly did the sea rush back from the coast, that quantities of fish were left gasping on the sands, so lately covered by deep waters. And this scene of terror took place near the spot where I was standing in perfect security ; nay, the very spot itself had been overwhelmed by its effects. And now, a calm and blue sky was over my head ; *Vestivius* was slumbering tranquilly within a short distance ; glowing vines were overhanging many a mound, the sepulchres of dwellings that have not seen the light for seventeen centuries ; and the sunbeams were playing on paintings and mosaic pavements, in the disinterred abode where I now ranged at will ! It seemed all a dream ; and the fearful past appeared more real to the imagination than the calm and smiling present : the ruins around alone attesting that Destruction had been here.

The view from the gallery of the amphitheatre is beautiful. The Bay of Naples seen stretching out on one side, and the coast of *Castellamare* on the other, with the inland country in the background. The interior of this fine theatre was decorated with paintings, of which but faint traces now remain, the exposure to the weather having nearly destroyed them. The guides have adopted a plan that must eventually efface all the paintings, and which really calls for the interference of those who have power to put a stop to it. I refer to their constant custom of throwing buckets of water on the painted walls, which process gives a momentary vividness to the pictures, but must soon destroy them. I never rejoiced more in being blessed with personal agility than while exploring *Pompeii*, for it enabled me to descend from the ass on which I was mounted, and to escape from the erudite explanations of my grave and learned *cicerone*, to scramble over wild banks of vineyards, and mounds of earth, in order to explore some tempting-looking court of a building, or to watch the progress of the excavations. There is a deep interest in beholding the buried antiquities of many centuries brought to light. Even trivial objects thrown up by the shovels of the workmen, acquire a value, because discovered in our presence, with which we should not otherwise invest them. I obtained a few of these trifles, from which my own hands removed the clay and sand that surrounded

them, and I prize them more than many much more valuable antiquities in my possession.

TO POMPEII.

Lonely City of the Dead!
 Body, whence the Soul has fled,
 Leaving still upon thy face
 Such a mild and pensive grace,
 As the lately dead display
 While yet stamp'd upon frail clay,
 Rests the impress of the mind,
 That the fragile earth refined!

Let me question thee of those
 Who within thy depths repose,
 Those whose eyes like mine have dwelt
 On these scenes—whose hearts have felt
 All that human hearts must know,
 In a world where joy and woe
 Chase each other—'tis the doom
 From the cradle to the tomb.

Tell me when the skies did lower,
 Darken'd by the lurid shower,
 That yon mountain in mad ire
 Scatter'd forth 'midst smoke and fire;
 Did *they* dread the hand of Fate
 Knocking at the City's gate?
 Did *they* deem that Death was nigh
 As they eyed the threat'ning sky?

Did the mother closer press
 Her sleeping babe, and trembling bless:
 Its slumbers, nestling to its sire,
 He, who vainly would inspire
 Hopes he could no longer feel,
 While his words amid each peal
 Of thunder loud reach'd not the ear;
 And more frantic grew her fear?

Did the bridegroom seek his bride,
 Draw her wildly to his side,
 Claspng her to his fond heart,
 Swearing Death ev'n should not part;
 Souls so link'd, then madly dare
 Through the dense crowd her form, to bear,
 Till the burning show'rs that fall
 O'er them close, like funeral pall?

Did the miser seek his gold,
 And within his garments' fold
 Hug the treasure loved too well,
 Treasure which, like potent spell,
 Drew him back (though Death unfurl'd
 His dark flag and ruin hurl'd)
 To some deep and secret cave,
 Once his coffer—now his grave?

And ye walls, with pictures dight,
 For long ages shut from light—
 Ye, upon whose colours gay
 Glad eyes dwell each happy day,
 Eyes that on you look'd their last
 Ere the hour of death was past,
 Did ye echo to the wail
 That had made stern hearts to quail?

But ye answer not—yet speech
 Graver lesson could not teach
 Than your silence, as alone,
 Rapt, I hear the dying moan
 Of the zephyr, while its sigh
 Waves the vine in passing by,
 Every soft and gentle breath
 Seeming requiem of death.

Farewell! City of the Dead!
 O'er whom centuries have fled,
 Leaving on your buried face
 Not one mark Time loves to trace;
 Dumb as Egypt's corpses, you
 Strangely meet our anxious view,
 Showing to the eager gaze
 But cold, still shades of ancient days.

The Forum Vinalia was the spot fixed on for our halting-place; and, on arriving there, we found a *recherché* collation spread on the tables, shaded by weeping willows, the bright foliage of which formed an agreeable protection against the scorching rays of the sun. The table covered with snowy napkins, and piled with every dainty of the united *cuisine à l'anglaise, française, and Neapolitan*; from the simple cold roasted meats and poultry, to the delicate *aspics, mayonnaises, galantine de volaille, pains de lièvre aux pistaches, patés de Pithiviers, salades de homard et d'anchois, and la Poutarga*, down to all the tempting *friandises à la napolitaine*, formed as picturesque an object to the sight, as a tempting one to the palate. Sir William Gell was eloquent in his praises of our superiority over the ancients in the noble science of gastronomy; asserted that Pompeii never before saw so delicious a *déjeuner à la fourchette*, and only wished that a triclinium was added to the luxuries, that he might recline while indulging in them: a position, however, which I should think far from agreeable when eating. "There are no people like the English," said Sir William Gell; "they transport with them to every clime the luxurious habits, and appliances that administer to them, of their own. Here we are, with a table as elegantly served, as if in a grand mansion in London, or delightful villa at Richmond. The viands of the rarest and choicest quality, as Mr. Gunter would say; every delicacy, not only of the season, but of different seasons and coun-

tries, with all appliances to boot, of silver plates, dishes, and forks, etc., etc., in the middle of Pompeii! Iced wine, too, I declare! Commend me to my grumbling compatriots, who carry with them all the creature comforts that can alleviate, if not subdue, their natural disposition to find fault. They never gratify one sense without attending to the wants of another. Sight-seeing is proverbially an occupation that incites hunger; and they, above all other people, prepare for its indulgence." Our party rendered ample justice to the repast, and while doing so, it was amusing to look on the faces of the attendants, and to hear the mixture of different languages. The brown-haired Englishman with ruddy complexion, the yellow-haired German, the swarthy Italian, and the animated Frenchman, presented as distinct physiognomies as the languages they spoke. The jumble amused Sir William Gell very much; and he drew from all, except the Englishmen, some amusing remarks. An English servant is the only one who is never betrayed into even the semblance of familiarity; a fact which once led an Italian noble to remark, that the cause of the appearance of hauteur so visible in the upper classes of the English, originated in the extreme distance observed towards them by their servants, instead of attributing the distance to the decorum preserved by the masters.

Temples, theatres, and dwellings, viewed for a few hours, and for the first time, leave but indistinct images in the mind, more especially when the sentiments they awaken, and the reflections to which they give birth, are as novel as they are powerful. How incapable are words to paint impressive scenes so as to array them with all their features and peculiarities before the mental vision of another! and almost as feeble are they in representing the sentiments and reflections which such spectacles engender. That which is easily effected by an ill-executed picture, or slight drawing, language generally fails to achieve. How vain then are all attempts at description!—save, indeed, by a master-hand. Scott paints with words as brightly as Titian did with colours; but the descriptions of most writers resemble the pencil sketches of amateur artists, which only serve to recall the scenes to their own minds, giving but a faint notion of them to others.

Sept. 7th.—The wife of one of the gardeners of Belvedere was confined this morning, and gave birth to a fine little girl. I saw her at work in the court-yard an hour before the event, and in less than an hour after it had occurred, the infant was brought to me, swathed in the Italian mode from the chest to the feet, precisely like the drawings of Indian children which I have seen. The head had no cap, but was profusely powdered, and strange to say, the ears were already pierced, and bore gold rings in them. The

powdered head formed a curious contrast with the red face of the infant, which presented any thing rather than a pleasing sight : nevertheless, the relatives and friends of the parents pronounced it to be the most charming *bambino* ever seen, and the mother pressed it rapturously to her breast, as, seated beneath the arcades in the court, within six hours after her accouchement, she exhibited it to her neighbours and visitors, with no small degree of self-complacency and delight. While I write this, a very interesting and picturesque group are assembled beneath my window, consisting of the united families of the two gardeners, the *nouvelle accouchée*, and her *bambino*, the grandmother, and some of the neighbours. The children are all touching and kissing the newborn infant, the grandmother cautioning them not to be too rough in their caresses; and the mother, with no symptom of recent illness, *en cheveux*, and dressed *à l'ordinaire*, is partaking of her usual evening repast, an abundant supply of macaroni. All seem in high glee, and I am told that to-morrow she will resume her customary occupations, as if nothing particular had occurred. I should say, judging from the specimens that have fallen immediately beneath my observation, that the Italian peasantry are a very affectionate race. Since I have resided here I have never heard an angry word, or ill-humoured tone of voice from any of the individuals composing the two large families who reside in the *rez-de-chaussée* of this dwelling; but terms of endearment and exclamations of love continually reach my ears from them.

Spent the morning in the Museo Borbonico, and examined the different objects found at Pompeii. They were invested with a new interest to me, from having so lately explored the place to which they appertained. The culinary utensils are as various as those to be met with in the *cuisine* of an aristocratic residence, but infinitely superior in point of design and execution, and each and all more or less ornamented. Loaves of bread, with the baker's name still visible on them, with grapes and other edibles, were shown to us. Various articles for the toilette were also displayed, among which was a pot of rouge, proving that the dames of antiquity were not ignorant of the use of artificial aids for supplying the loss of the roses of health to their cheeks. There are several mirrors of steel in the museo, but none of a considerable size. The combs are ill-formed, and look barbarous near the other implements for the toilette; which, for the most part, are prettily shaped, and neatly finished. The lamps far surpass any of those of modern invention. Fancy has given to each some of her most graceful ornaments; and to others, chimeras dire, and grotesque shapes. One was a tree, admirably executed, in the branches of which hung tubes for the oil. The chains of all

the lamps were beautiful, and as neatly finished as our gold neck-chains; and none of the lamps were without ornaments, not even those of the most ordinary kind. One article struck me as peculiarly blending the useful and ornamental. It was formed of bronze, and meant to be placed in the chamber of an invalid. It represents a kind of fortress with towers, each of which is formed to contain any liquid intended to be kept warm, and a drawer for burning charcoal fills the bottom of the whole apparatus. This article is so beautifully finished, that it would be an ornament in any chamber, and its utility is obvious. Some of the trinkets in this collection are exceedingly pretty. The gold of which they are composed is very pure, and the designs pleasing, though what we moderns should call *mesquin*, from their slightness and smallness. The rings are generally good, particularly those with engraved gems, some of which are really beautiful. The armoury contains helmets, breast-plates, shields and swords, worn by the Romans, many of them bearing marks of the warfare in which their owners were engaged; and all in a far less ruinous condition than the once mighty city, among whose armies they were worn.

9th.—Went yesterday to see the procession of the Fête de St. Maria Piedigrotto, considered to be one of the most splendid of the Neapolitan religious festivals. Balconies commanding views of the procession were in great request, and large sums were demanded for them. The Austrian troops at present occupying Naples, and amounting to about fourteen or fifteen thousand men, formed a part of the *cortège*, and added considerably to the grandeur of its effect. The royal family, followed by the ladies and officers of the court, filled about forty state coaches, drawn by eight, six, and four horses; and attended by innumerable running footmen, in quaint, but very rich liveries, wearing black velvet caps, similar to those of huntsmen. The royal *cortège* was preceded and followed by the troops, and advanced at a slow pace from the Palace, along the Chiaja, to the Chapel of the Grotto. The streets were crowded with peasants in their richest costumes, and with *lazzaroni*, more remarkable for the picturesqueness, than neatness of theirs. The dresses of the female peasants of the various districts in the kingdom of Naples might here be seen; and presented a rich galaxy of the brightest colours, mingled with ornaments of pearl, coral, and gold. The effect was beautiful, conveying the impression of some vast *bal costumé*, rather than of the real dresses worn by peasants. As my eyes glanced over the Chiaja, and I saw the sunbeams sparkling on the rich and picturesque groups beneath, I could have fancied them an immense moving bed of tulips; so gorgeous and various were the hues they presented. The carriage

of the King was one surface of highly-burnished gilding. It was surmounted by plumes of snowy feathers, as were also the eight horses by which it was drawn. Pages, in the dresses of the olden time, walked by the side of the carriage, and outside these moved the running footmen. The rest of the state carriages, though very gaudy, were shabby and ill-appointed. The ladies of the court were habited precisely alike, in robes of gold tissue with broad scarlet stripes; and plumes of feathers, with diamonds in their hair. The sight of so many ladies similarly attired, conveyed the notion that they wore a livery, and were literally servants; a notion that, however repugnant to the vanity of courtiers, is seldom far from the truth. The ceremony in the chapel occupied not more than twenty minutes; and the procession returned to the palace in the same order. I was forcibly struck with the difference that marked the conduct of the populace towards the sovereign here, with that which we witness in England to ours. Although the Chiaja was crowded with persons of all classes, not a single huzza or acclamation met his Neapolitan Majesty; nor did his presence seem to occasion the slightest sensation in the minds of his subjects. This indifference is the more remarkable, when we consider the natural enthusiasm, and exuberant animation of this people, and compare it with the habitual calmness of ours. Nowhere have I ever seen a sovereign received with the same demonstrations of affection as in England; demonstrations the more flattering, as proceeding from a free people to their King.

12th.—Went to Herculaneum yesterday, accompanied by Sir William Gell. This excursion may well be called a descent into the grave of a buried city. The noise of carriages rolling over us resembles thunder; and reminds one of active busy life, while thus interred nearly a hundred feet in lava, with the wrecks of past ages. A considerable portion of this city had been laid open, but the excavators, fearful of endangering the buildings in Portici and Resina, erected immediately over Herculaneum, filled up all except a theatre, at present the only vestige open to the inspection of the curious. The proscenium, orchestra, and consular seats, with a portion of the corridors, have, even in their present ruinous state, a very imposing effect; and this is heightened by the exclusion of the light of day, the torches throwing a lurid glare on some portions of the building, while others are left in deep shadow. The statues and other ornaments found in Herculaneum have all been removed, and nothing of its former decorations remain, save some arabesques, and portions of stucco painted with a crimson colour of extraordinary richness and lustre. The wild and grotesque figures and animated gesticulations of the guides, waving their torches, which cast lugubrious gleams of light

around this sepulchre of a dead city; the dense and oppressive air, and the reverberation of the sound of the carriages passing and repassing through the streets above it, have an indescribable influence on the mind. One consequently ascends into light and life again with feelings of melancholy, which not even the beautiful scenery that courts the eye can banish for some time.

We spent some hours in the Museum at Portici, which contains many of the treasures found at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Some of the paintings are very curious, and all are highly interesting. The gods and goddesses of the Pagan mythology, Bacchuses, Bacchantes, nymphs, boys, birds, animals, fishes, and insects, are the general subjects, and are executed with much spirit. But those paintings which represent scenes in the domestic life of past ages, have a superior attraction: hence, a garden, very similar to the Italian gardens of the present day, is beheld with interest; as is a lady looking at herself in a metal mirror; and other groups. One of the most touching mementos of the destruction of Pompeii is here shown, in the impression of a bosom, formed by the materials that destroyed her whose charms it has thus preserved to posterity. A necklace and bracelets of gold were found with the remains of this young female, and their beauty indicates that she must have been of no mean rank.

19th.—THE MIRACLE OF ST. JANUARIUS.—The miracle of the liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius, which is exhibited on the 19th of September every year, presents one of the most extraordinary examples of superstition that it is possible to imagine in the present time, when education has so much dispersed the mists of error and ignorance. I witnessed this ceremony to-day, and was little edified by the exhibition. A small portion of the blood of the saint having been preserved by a pious spectator of his martyrdom, it was long after consigned to the custody of the church named after him, of which it constitutes the pride and treasure. It is kept in a vial placed in the *tesoro*, which is a press formed in the wall, with an iron door of great strength, secured by no less than three locks; the keys of which are entrusted to three different bodies of the state, and a deputy from each is sent with its respective key, on the annual occasion of the door being opened. The glass vial which contains the blood is of a circular shape; and the blood beheld through it appears like a morsel of glue. In this state it is exhibited to the spectators, who all examine it. At eight o'clock, mass is celebrated in the different chapels of the cathedral, and at the grand altar, which is most richly decorated: a priest officiates, holding the glass vial in his hands, occasionally displaying it to the crowd, and praying with the utmost fervour, and apostrophizing the saint with exclamations

interrupted by his tears and sighs. A large wax candle, equal to at least a dozen of our English ones, is placed on the middle of the altar; and I observed that the holy father generally held the vial very near to it. It was about ten o'clock when we entered the chapel; and as the priest had then been two hours invoking the saint to consent to the miracle, the spectators were becoming very impatient. On the left side of the altar, a place was assigned to about one hundred women, who are said to be descendants of the saint; and therefore have this place of honour on the occasion. When, half an hour after our arrival, no symptom of liquefaction was visible, the cries of these women became really terrific, resembling more the howlings of savages than of Christians. Their shrieks were mingled with exclamations uttered with vehemence, and accompanied with the most violent gestures. They abused the saint in the most opprobrious terms, calling him every insulting name that rage or hatred could dictate. Through the influence of a friend we were permitted to approach near the grand altar, where we maintained a gravity that ought to have conciliated the good opinion of the worshippers of St. Januarius: but after his unnatural descendants had exhausted every term of vituperation on him, they began to direct sundry glances of mingled suspicion and rage against us; and at length avowed their conviction that it was the presence of the English heretics that prevented the liquefaction of the blood. The priest made a sign to us to take off our bonnets and to kneel, which we immediately did. This compliance appeased the anger of the relatives of the saint against us; and once more they directed their abuse to him, calling down imprecations on him for resisting the prayers of his descendants. *Briccone! Birbone!* and other terms of abuse were showered on him, for what they termed his obstinacy; but fortunately for their lungs and our ears, the blood began to liquefy! and the vial became filled in the course of two or three minutes after the first symptom of dilution. No sooner was the fulfilment of the miracle announced than the whole congregation prostrated themselves, and after a few minutes' thanksgiving, gave way to the most lively joy; uttering a thousand ejaculations of love and gratitude towards the saint to whom, only a short time before, they had addressed every term of abuse with which their vocabulary furnished them. Men, women, and children, now began to weep together; and never previously had I witnessed such an inundation of tears. Several soldiers, Austrians as well as Neapolitans, were present in full uniform, and appeared as equally impressed as were the rest of the congregation with the wondrous miracle that had taken place. The vial was paraded about by the priest, and pressed to the foreheads of the pious, who were also suffered to kiss it, a ceremony performed

with enthusiastic devotion. (1) During this operation a number of priests, young and old, were industriously plying their vocation of levying contributions on the strangers, who were told, that in honour of the saint and the miracle, it was hoped that they would not deny their charity. (2) A group of juvenile Chinese, who have been sent to Naples to study, and take priests' orders, were most demonstrative in their enthusiastic admiration of the miracle, and their sallow plain countenances were not improved by their smiles and tears. It is melancholy to see superstition extending itself to such remote regions as China: and I could not help breathing a wish that these youths had studied religion in a more enlightened school, that they might have carried back to their country the pure principles of Christianity, instead of those of superstition. Whether the liquefaction is produced by some chemical operation effected through the warmth of the hand, or its vicinity to the large candle alluded to, or both, I cannot decide; but I confess I left the spot an unbeliever of the asserted miracle. In a remote part of the church several priests were going through the ceremony of ordination. They were at an altar, within a large circle, inclosed by a balustrade, at which several dignitaries of the church were officiating. The neophytes were prostrated on the ground, bathed in tears, whether caused by regret for their abandonment of the world, or a sense of their own unworthiness for the sacred profession they had chosen, I could not discover: but their emotions seemed to awaken kindred ones in the crowd of both sexes assembled around the balustrade, and the women, in particular, wept bitterly.

The church of St. Januarius is a Gothic structure erected by

(1) Horace notices a superstitious ceremony performed in a town of the kingdom of Naples in his time, of which the miracle of St. Januarius reminds one:—

Dehinc Gnatia lymphis
 Iratis extracta dedit risusque, jocosque;
 Dum flammâ sine thura liquescere limine sacro
 Persuadere cupit: credat Judæus Apella,
 Non ego.

SAT. V. l. 1.

(2) They tell a story at Naples, the truth of which I can well believe. When it was first occupied by the French troops, the day for the ceremony of the liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius arrived, and the church, as usual, was filled with spectators. Several hours having elapsed without the blood exhibiting any symptom of liquefying, the Neapolitans became turbulent, and some insinuations were whispered that the saint refused to grant the miracle because the town was in the possession of the French. The general of that nation instantly sent an order to the priest, signifying that if the miracle was not accomplished within the space of ten minutes a severe punishment (I believe he threatened death) should be inflicted on him. The liquefaction took place within the given time: another proof, say the pious, of the goodness of the saint, who, in order to save the priest, overcame his scruples and consented to the miracle!

Alphonso the First, King of Naples, after the design of Nicolo Pisano. It is ornamented by several magnificent columns of Egyptian granite, said to have belonged to the ancient Temple of Apollo; and at the entrance are two beautiful antique porphyry pillars. It has many chapels, and is enriched by finely executed *bassi-rilievi*. The grand altar is composed of the rarest marbles, and has a fine statue by Paul Posi. The antique candelabra of jasper, placed at each side of the altar, are worthy of attention, from the beauty of their form and material, and the excellence of their workmanship. The subterraneous church, which contains the ashes of St. Januarius, is cased with white marble, and richly ornamented with *bassi-rilievi* and arabesque; the roof is supported by columns, and the whole has a rich effect. It was built by Cardinal Oliver Carraffa, Archbishop of Naples, of whom there is a statue in a kneeling posture, said to be by Michael Angelo. The grand church contains the remains of Charles of Anjou, Charles Martel, and his wife Clemence. One of the most interesting objects in the Church is an antique vase of Egyptian basalt, placed on a pedestal of porphyry. It is ornamented with finely executed *bassi-rilievi*, representing the attributes of Bacchus, which rather unfit it for its present use, which is that of a baptismal font.

October.—Our old friend, General Sir Andrew Barnard, has been spending some days with us. He is as much delighted with Italy as we are, but must return to England *bon gré mal gré*. This is one of the miseries of being attached to a Court.

Went yesterday to see the Campo Santo. This cemetery consists of a very large parallelogram, excavated and divided by masonry into three hundred and sixty-five vaults of great depth, and having no communication with each other. A massive square flag covers the opening, which is hermetically sealed; and in this flag is inserted an iron ring, by which it is raised when required. These vaults are all numbered, and one is open every day in the year, for the reception of the dead bodies, from dawn until midnight, when it is closed. Quicklime is then thrown in, and it is said that in a short time no trace of the dead, save the bones, remain, so rapid is the decomposition. At the end of a year, each vault is reopened, and made ready for its new tenants, by removing the bones and skulls, and burning them for the purpose of manure. The cemetery is surrounded by walls on three sides, and the fourth is occupied by a building with arcades and benches, for the reception of the dead while the flag is being raised. No coffins are allowed, and the shells used for conveying the bodies are brought away. The vault open yesterday was nearly three parts filled when I looked into it; and never did my eyes encounter so hideous a sight as it presented! The light of a brilliant sun fell obliquely into this

charnel-house, throwing its beams on some portions of the tenants of the vault; while others were left in deep shadow, like some picture by Rembrandt, but far more fearful than his pencil ever depicted. The bodies, from having been thrown in, lay in the most incongruous contact, and some, in falling, had assumed singularly fantastic positions. Male and female, the youthful and the aged, were mingled together in grisly fellowship. An old man, with a long white beard, the growth of a protracted disease, was covered all save his venerable-looking head, by the luxuriant raven tresses of a young female corpse, who had fallen close to him; while her person was nearly concealed by those of three children, whose limbs, protruded in grotesque attitudes. Heads, feet, and arms were seen jutting out at different sides, beneath the figures on the top of this heap of mortality; and what added to the revolting horror of the scene was, that a number of reptiles were crawling over the dead, and had already commenced preying on them. The soul shuddered, and the mind shrank back appalled from this hideous charnel-house. How can any human beings bear to consign their dead to such an abode! The depths of the ocean were a better grave than this den; where death, while robbed of its solemnity, is rendered more ghastly, more terrific, and more revolting, by its victims being thrown into disgusting and obscene contact, to rot, and mingle their putridity together. Many a year will elapse ere this loathsome sight can be effaced from my mind; and the recollection of the scenes of that dread prison-house will last long, long after the present occupants of it have mouldered away. The sweeping tresses of raven hair, once the pride of their youthful owner, and often adorned with bright ribbons and flowers for festivals, will ever be remembered, as the fearful veil of the stark corse of the old man!

November.—I have made acquaintance, at the Archbishop of Tarentum's, with many scientific and literary characters; among whom no one has more pleased me than the celebrated Piazzi, the astronomer. His manners are peculiarly agreeable, for though he is remarkably well-bred, they possess an originality and raciness always interesting, and not often to be met with in a person who has mingled so much in society. He is far advanced in the vale of years; but his mind is as vigorous and active as ever. He is tall and slight, his physiognomy very *spirituel*, with an expression of good-nature not generally appertaining either to the character or countenances of those remarkable for their *esprit*. He has been from early youth the friend and companion of the admirable Capeccellatro, Archbishop of Tarentum. Both philosophers, in the best and truest acception of the term, their knowledge of human nature, which is profound, has but induced

them to feel a greater degree of forbearance towards the weak and erring, and a livelier admiration for the good. Piazzi is a Sicilian by birth, and distinguished himself, while yet a child, by a passion for astronomy, which denoted the pre-eminence he was likely to attain in that science. Nor has his progress in it disappointed the expectations formed by his friends; as his discovery of the planet Ceres ranks him among the most eminent of the modern astronomers. The Abbé Monticelli is another of the acquaintances I have cultivated. He is considered the best geologist in Italy; and is remarkably agreeable as well as instructive in conversation.

Few days elapse without our spending some hours with the excellent and amiable Archbishop of Tarentum, who attracts around him a circle composed of the most enlightened and pleasant people of his own and every other nation. I never saw a man so universally esteemed, and certainly never one who more merited to be so. His love of the fine arts, and encouragement to artists, draw to his house the best specimens of both; and many a one has found patrons through his recommendation, who might otherwise have pined away existence in obscurity.

We see a good deal of the Duc di Rocco Romano, one of the most distinguished Neapolitan generals, and the very personification of a *preux chevalier*; brave in arms, and gentle and courteous in society. There is something really *chevaleresque* in the bearing of Rocco Romano; and what renders it more attractive is, that it is in perfect keeping with his military reputation. Though said to be nearly sixty years old, he certainly does not look above forty; and is in his person as active as most men of thirty, and as lively as any are at twenty. Time affects people infinitely less in this mild climate than with us. Here I see many persons flourishing at an age that in England would have been attended with most, if not all, the infirmities peculiar to the decline of life; and have observed in them an animation and gaiety seldom to be found even in the youthful in our cold clime.

The Neapolitan ladies are generally handsome, and some eight or ten of them are exceedingly beautiful. Their manners are easy, graceful, and natural; perfectly free from even the semblance of affectation or coquetry. In mixed society they are much more reserved than the ladies of England or France; but this restraint arises, not from prudery, but from a natural timidity and reserve when with strangers. Shaking hands with gentlemen is deemed to be indecorous, even when long acquaintance has existed. In *soirées*, men never presume to sit by a lady, establishing those *tête-à-têtes* so frequently seen in English society; but advance to the formal rows, or circles, in which ladies are seated,

and converse with them, standing respectfully all the time, in terms so purposely audible, that the surrounding persons may hear all that is said. Some portion of the Spanish ceremoniousness may still be detected in the manners of the higher class of the Neapolitans; but this soon wears off, particularly among women, for the ladies here are peculiarly gentle and amiable to strangers of their own sex.

Sir William Gell is so beloved by the Neapolitans, that any friends of his are received by them with distinguished politeness; and as he possesses the rare tact of knowing the persons likely to suit each other, his introductions are generally productive of pleasure to all parties. Indeed, a most favourable impression of the English exists here, given by the long residence of Sir William Drummond, Gell, and Mr. Keppel Craven, at Naples, which has enabled the inhabitants to estimate the many admirable qualities of these gentlemen. Mr. Craven possesses a highly-cultivated mind, manners at once dignified and graceful, and exercises an elegant hospitality, that renders his house among the most attractive here.

My old friend, good, kind Lord Guildford, dined with us yesterday. He is *en route* for England, attended by Heaven only knows how many Greek professors and their wives. Never was mortal man so devoted to one pursuit, as this estimable creature is to the restoration of literature in Greece. It has become a monomania with him, for he thinks of nothing else, speaks of nothing else, except his college. He has given us a pressing invitation to visit him at Corfu, not so much, I verily believe, for the sake of our society, as for the purpose of showing us his literary establishments. People laugh at this hobby of Lord Guildford's, and think it denotes nothing short of insanity in a British peer, to prefer devoting a large portion of his fortune to the education of the Greeks, to expending it in England in dinners, balls, and fêtes, like so many of his class. But such is the wisdom of our times, that all who serve others, or evince a more than ordinary interest in the well-being of their fellow-men, are forthwith suspected of folly. Byron has been mocked for going to fight for the Greeks; Lord Guildford is derided for educating them!

Naples is filling fast, and many English have arrived. As yet we have escaped even the semblance of winter, except the occasional storms that sometimes at night remind us of the season. There has been no day in which we have not been able to ride or drive, as if it were September instead of November; and although we have no fire-place in any of the sitting-rooms which we occupy, we have not suffered from cold. The substitute for fires are *brazeros*, in which a small kind of charcoal, made from the wood of myrtle,

is burned; and this dispenses a sufficient warmth, without any unpleasant odour or vapour. These *brazeros*, in shape, resemble an antique vase, or urn, and are made of *terra-cotta*, with the cover pierced. They stand on low pedestals, are generally ornamented with antique designs, and have a classical appearance. We find two, sufficient to warm each of our large drawing rooms, and one, the less. We have experienced no ill effect from the use of the *brazeros*; and by throwing into them perfumed pastiles prepared for the purpose, they emit a very agreeable odour. Notwithstanding that we do not miss the warmth of a fire, we greatly miss the appearance of that truly English focus of comfort, which attracts round its cheerful hearth the domestic circle of a winter's evening; and we all admit that we should prefer encountering some portion of the severity of a northern winter, with a home fire-side, to the mild seasons here, which have led to its exclusion from Neapolitan houses.

Count Paul Lieven, (1) and Mr. Richard Williams have arrived here, and dined with us yesterday. The young Russian speaks English like a native, is exceedingly good-looking, and possesses a quickness of perception and discrimination that peculiarly fit him for arriving at eminence in his diplomatic career. Mr. Richard Williams is a good specimen of an Englishman, well-looking and well-bred, with an inquiring, active, and cultivated mind. Both formed a pleasing contrast with the Prince L—, who also dined here, and whose discordant voice still rings in my ears; although, Heaven be thanked! not one of the sentiments it breathed have rested in my memory. A low voice is charming in man as well as in woman; and I never was more convinced of this fact, than after having had my ears tortured by the screaming tones *di Sua Eccellenza il Principe L—*.

Lord Ashley and Mr. Evelyn Denison dined here yesterday. I have seldom seen a more distinguished young man than the first. His air aristocratic, yet free from the *fierté* supposed to accompany *l'air noble*, and his manners manly and dignified. Highly educated, he seems bent on acquiring the knowledge only to be attained by travel, and an acquaintance with other countries, and bids fair to be an ornament to his own. Mr. E. Denison is a remarkably gentleman-like, well-informed young man. Sir William Gell, who met them at dinner here, gave them much useful information about Sicily, to which place Lord Ashley intends proceeding.

December.—As yet we have had no winter here; and no day without more sunshine than is to be enjoyed in England in the midst of summer. This escape from winter is really a blessing to invalids; and when one is basking in the genial warmth of this

(1) Now Prince Paul Lieven.

sunny clime, and reflects on the snow and sleet that is probably at this moment covering our English shores, it is impossible, even in despite of patriotism, not to admit that Italy is a preferable winter residence. Enjoying the frequent society of Sir William Drummond, Gell, Mr. Craven, Mr. Mathias, and a pleasant admixture of the Neapolitans, with the travellers of all countries who come to Naples, it would be difficult to find a place where time can be more agreeably passed than here. Sir William Drummond and Gell, who have tried so many other places, give this the preference, and by doing so, certainly add much to its attractions. Nor has dainty food been wanting to gratify the palate, while a rich treat has been afforded to the mind. The wild boar, a delicacy much in request here, and the veal of Sorrento, the whitest and most delicious I ever tasted, with well-flavoured poultry, have been abundantly supplied; and our cook has rendered them ample justice by his culinary skill.

January, 1824.—The new year has opened most propitiously, for the weather is delicious. The garden here boasts so good a supply of flowers, that one can hardly believe when looking on it, that we are still in the depth of winter, of which we are only reminded by the shortness of the days. We have added many individuals to our list of acquaintances here, some acquisitions as well as additions; among whom may be ranked the Signor Salvaggi, a man of considerable literary acquirements, and most agreeable manners. The Duc de Cazarano and Marchese Giuliano, were presented to us by the Duc de Rocco Romano, and we see them frequently. Cazarano is a very amusing person, draws well, and is an admirable mimic, and Giuliano has been some time in England, whither he went when Murat lost the Neapolitan throne. The devotion of some of the Neapolitan officers to Murat was very touching, and failed not to the last; and among them, Rocco Romano and Giuliano were distinguished. They are now permitted to live free from molestation here; but have not yet been employed by the present government.

February.—The carnival has disappointed me: not that it was wanting in the noisy gaiety peculiar to festivals here, but that after the novelty of the first quarter of an hour's view of it had passed away, the repetition of grotesque groups, ludicrous masks, and extravagant costumes, became as fatiguing to the mind as to the eye. The Neapolitans, high and low, rich and poor, enter into the spirit of the carnival, with a reckless love of pleasure and zest, that appertains only to children in other countries. Even the old seem to enjoy the general hilarity produced by the heterogeneous *mélange* of Neptunes, Hercules, Cupids, shepherdesses, sailors, Spanish grandees, and a hundred other absurd masks.

Innumerable carriages, filled with these votaries of pleasure, pass and repass in the Strada Toledo, playing their antics, and hurling at the persons they encounter, showers of bon-bons and bouquets of flowers. The dress of English sailors seems to be a favourite one with the maskers at the carnival, for we saw several worn by persons whose equipages indicated that they were of the aristocracy. The lower class substitute a composition of plaster of Paris for bon-bons, and often throw them with a violence that occasions accidents. Large are the sums expended by the gay Neapolitan gallants, in the purchase of the most delicate bon-bons and fragrant bouquets, which they throw into the carriages or windows, where they recognize their female acquaintances. A party of the *noblesse* a year ago, during the carnival, passed through the Strada Toledo, in a ship, placed on wheels, and fired from the guns at each side, volleys of bon-bons. Never were broadsides so amicably received, or so agreeably remembered, for they still form the topic of conversation, whenever a carnival is mentioned.

Melancholy news are arrived from Rome, announcing the death of the beautiful Miss Bathurst. This sad event occurred by her horse slipping into the Tiber, from a narrow path near its edge, when she attempted to turn him; and though she rose to the surface of the water on horseback, the efforts of the horse in swimming burst the girths, and she was precipitated again into the flood. She rose once more, and then disappeared into its turbid depths for ever, in the presence of her agonized friends, who saw her perish without the power of saving her. A fatality seems to be attached to the family. Her father, a most amiable man, and son to the worthy and esteemed Bishop of Norwich, disappeared some years ago, when travelling in Germany, and was never more heard of, leaving a wife and two infant daughters to lament his loss; and now one of these daughters, in the flower of youth and beauty, is snatched from life, and in a manner, too, that renders the blow still more afflicting. I remember seeing this lovely girl, hanging on the arm of her fond mother, coming out of the Opera, at the close of the season of 1822, and being greatly struck with her appearance. What a new and terrible blow must this event be, to the bereaved wife and mother! It appears that Miss Bathurst, who was residing at Rome, under the protection of her uncle and aunt, Lord and Lady Aylmer, rode out with them, escorted by the French ambassador, the Duc de Laval-Montmorenci. The groom of Miss Bathurst was sent back to the residence of Lord Aylmer with some message; and when the party arrived near the Ponte Molle, the Duc proposed leading them by a path which he had often previously ridden, along the bank of the Tiber. The river

having become swollen, portions of the bank had given way, which rendered the path so narrow, that after pursuing it some short distance, the Duc, who was foremost, proposed retracing their steps. In endeavouring to turn her horse, Miss Bathurst unfortunately backed him too near the edge of the bank, which gave way, and horse and rider were plunged into the river. Not one of the party could swim; nevertheless, Lord Aylmer attempted to rush into the water, and had advanced some paces, when his distracted wife held him forcibly back. What renders this sad catastrophe still more lamentable is, that the groom, who had been sent back to Rome, is a good swimmer, and might have been able to rescue this charming young girl from her watery grave. The letter from Rome which I have read, giving these particulars, adds that a more heart-rending scene was seldom witnessed, than that presented by the horror-stricken group on the border of the river, as they watched the object of so much affection rising to the surface of the river, and then saw her engulfed in its turbid depths for ever, leaving no trace but a wide circling eddy on the water, that quickly disappeared. How terrible must have been the return to that home, which her presence had so lately enlivened; to those rooms where her open piano, drawing-table, and all the implements of feminine occupation, were placed ready for use. The dress in which she was to appear that very night at a ball, the letter states, was spread on the bed, whence she had risen in all the health, and gaiety of early youth that fatal day, while she, the beloved, whom her protectors would have shielded with anxious care, even from the most genial shower of spring, was sleeping in death, with the yellow waters of the Tiber booming over her beautiful form, and sullyng those long and silken tresses, of which those who loved her—and they were many—were so proud. The body,—how shockingly the word sounds, when applied to a creature lately bounding in life and light!—has not yet been discovered, though the river has been drawn with nets, and a large reward has been offered for it. How can the fearful tale be told to that mother, who has already pined for years under the mysterious disappearance of her husband? It makes the heart ache even to imagine the attempt. In dragging the Tiber, several bodies have been found, some with marks of the stileuo, which prove they were consigned to a watery grave to conceal their assassination. More than one female corse was attired in a masquerade dress.

“Cut off even in the blossoms of their sins,
Unhousel'd, unanointed, unanel'd;
No reckoning made, but sent to their accounts
With all their imperfections on their heads.”

Yet no one, at least no stranger, ever heard of the disappearance of those whose bodies have been found; and little surprise is, I hear, evinced at their discovery. In England, such a discovery would serve to fill the newspapers for weeks, while in Italy it is little noticed. The disregard of human life is a striking peculiarity of this country, but strange to say, it does not originate in either moral or physical courage: on the contrary, I should say, that its source may be traced to the want of both, as well as to the indulgence of those evil passions and quick impulses to violence, for which the Italians are remarkable. In a moment of anger or jealousy, regardless of consequences, the stiletto or knife is called into action, and many are the lives thus sacrificed to an ungovernable impulse of rage. The Italians are so conscious of their being prone to commit such deeds of wrath, that a murder excites little attention among them. Even in the nearest and dearest connexions, innumerable are the instances of lovers and husbands stabbing their mistresses and wives, in a fit of jealousy; and it is not rare to see women with many marks of the knife on their persons, inflicted by those dear to them. One woman, whom we questioned in the village of the Vomero, seemed rather proud than ashamed of these marks; and said, when holding up her arms to show them, "My husband loves me too well not to be jealous sometimes: there is no love without jealousy. It is better to have a few such marks as these, than not to have a loving husband." Such are the sentiments of many, if not all, of the women of the lower class in Italy, in whose untutored minds love seems to be the ruling passion, offering a satisfactory excuse for all the excesses and crimes into which it may plunge its votaries. In truth, the women here resemble grown children, infinitely more than human beings arrived at maturity, or than accountable agents; yet with this ungovernable impetuosity they are not masculine in their modes of testifying it,—tears; joy, and passionate exclamations, being here, as in most other countries, the feminine arms to which they have recourse when excited. Their affection for their children is demonstrated by an enthusiastic tenderness, that frequently reminds me of that evinced by Irish mothers of the same class of life, to their offspring. The expressions of love too, though in languages so different, have a similarity of sentiment; though it must be acknowledged that *anima mia* has a more dulcet sound than *cuisla-machree*.

Already has spring manifested itself here. The leaves are putting forth their tender and bright verdure; the birds are carolling from every bough, and the air becomes every day more mild and genial, resembling the early days of May, in England.

The Neapolitans are the kindest persons imaginable, of which

every day furnishes us abundant proof in their continued attentions. Books, drawings, and curiosities, are showered on us by those warm-hearted people, who, like their climate, are all sunshine.

March.—The last month has flown away rapidly, and pleasantly, —sight-seeing, making excursions, and cultivating pleasant acquaintances. Never did time seem to pass so fleetly as at Naples; the delicious climate rendering existence so positive an enjoyment, that occupation is seldom felt necessary, as in England, to fill up the hours when bad weather and gloomy skies deny the power of out-of-door amusements. I have explored, on horseback, all the environs of this gay city, many of the most beautiful ones are only accessible to pedestrians, or equestrians. We have made acquaintance with most of the peasantry, and all their children, whom we encountered in our rides; and are now welcomed by them with kind greetings whenever we appear. Every path through the vineyards, and every Madonna in the little niches erected for their reception on the by-ways we frequent, are become as familiar to us, as the immediate vicinity of Mountjoy Forest; and charming are the landscapes that we have seen, by thus leaving the high roads, and wandering through the little hamlets and secluded parts of this enchanting country. In these rambles, we have stopped to converse with many a group of peasants, who have ceased their labours, and the songs which invariably accompany them, pleased to converse with strangers, who evinced kindness towards them. They are the most contented race of people under the sun; for never have we heard a complaint of poverty, notwithstanding that several indications of it were visible. Their labours are cheered by songs and smiles, that lighten, if they do not make them forget them. Here the earth yields its productions to her children, like a profuse and generous mother, instead of, as in colder regions, requiring to be rendered fertile by hard labour. I have seen the ground turned up by the feet alone, the aid of spades or ploughs being deemed unnecessary. Poverty can never be felt so severely by this people, as by ours; for their wants are much fewer, and more easily satisfied. The mildness of the climate renders fuel and warm clothing here,—heavy sources of expense to the poor in colder climes,—much less necessary to them; and maccaroni, the chief article of their food, is so low-priced and nutritive, that even the poorest peasants can procure it. Their habits of sobriety are remarkable; and to this may, I think, be attributed their cheerful temperaments, and general good health.

April.—Naples abounds with English, who have flocked here from Rome, where they have been passing the winter. Among

them are my old friends, Lord Dudley and Ward, as clever, amusing, and eccentric as ever, and Lord Howden and his son Mr. Cradock. They dined with us yesterday, and we passed an agreeable evening. The eccentricities of Lord Dudley increase with age; and sometimes assume so questionable a shape, as to excite doubts of his sanity in my mind. These doubts are not, however, entertained by others, or at least, if so, are not acknowledged; notwithstanding that he exhibits proofs of aberration of intellect, too palpable not to be noticed. But the truth is, that a man with forty thousand pounds a year, and willing to give frequent and good dinners, must be as mad as a March hare, before people will admit that he is more than *eccentric*. Lord Dudley thinks aloud, expresses his opinions of persons and things, not often in a flattering tone, to the very persons of whom he is speaking, much in the style of the characters in Madame de Genlis' *Palais de la Vérité*, frequently producing the most ludicrous effect. As I have known him long and well, and have perfect faith in his good-nature, I can only attribute these examples of his *façons de parler*, to *absence d'esprit*, and not as many of his acquaintance do, to *méchanceté*. Conversing with a mutual friend on this topic, two days ago, he declared his conviction that Lord Dudley only affected the absence of mind so much commented on, as giving a privilege of telling disagreeable truths. So much for the defence of friends! "No, no! he is far from being insane," added ——. "He never throws away his money in buying things he can do without; never lends a guinea on any pretext whatever; never makes a present; looks sharply into his steward's accounts, and gives capital dinners. No, he is not mad, I'll be sworn; only *un peu original*; and so are many more of our acquaintance."

Lord Howden is a perfect gentleman of the old school, when good-breeding was an indispensable requisite to form one. And what a charm good-breeding casts over all who possess it! It is the true polish that softens asperities, and renders society agreeable. Mr. Cradock is very good-looking, very well-informed, exceedingly clever, and very amusing when he chooses to be so. He talks well on most subjects, and is dextrous in handling an argument, or pointing an epigram, or *bon-mot*. He enters society, as an experienced gladiator enters the arena where he is to combat, prepared to use all the weapons, in the use of which he has acquired a proficiency. If he fail, it will not be from want of address, but from the want of a due estimate of the powers of his opponents; an error peculiar to the clever, and the young.

May.—Mr. George Howard, the elder son of Lord Morpeth, has been staying a few days with us. He is a very superior young man, with a highly cultivated mind, and a fine understanding. He has all

the steadiness of age, without any of its acerbity ; and all the frankness of youth, without any portion of its indiscretion or self-conceit. It would be difficult to find a more rational or a more agreeable companion, or one who is more calculated to captivate good-will and command respect.

SALERNO.—We have made a delightful excursion to Pæstum, which has more than realised our expectations. The route, which passes by the Soldiers' quarters at Pompeii, offers nothing very interesting, until two or three miles beyond that ruined city ; when the country assumes a most rich and varied aspect, presenting the most beautiful views. In no part of Italy have I seen such scenery as on this route, uniting all the charms of woods, rocks, and mountains, with dilapidated castles, watch-towers, churches, and convents, so admirably placed as to appear as if erected as ornaments in the enchanting landscapes. In one part may be seen the ruins of a fortress, crowning a mountain which lifts its bleak front on high ; while all beneath it is glowing with the richest vegetation ; and at another turn of the road, the spires of a convent are seen rising amidst woods, whose umbrageous foliage forms a fine contrast to their snowy white.

We stopped some time at Nocera, the Nuceria of the ancients, called Nocera di Pagani, from its having been taken by the Saracens. Its chief attraction is the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, supposed by some to have been an ancient temple converted to this pious use ; while others imagine it to have been a public bath. Like most of the fragments of antiquity, the uncertainty of its original destination, has furnished a wide field for the conjectures and disputes of antiquaries ; who only seem to have agreed on one point, and that is never to coincide in their opinions ; each setting up an hypothesis of his own, and denouncing that of all others. The reason for supposing the building to have originally been a bath is, that in the centre, which is of a circular shape, there is a large octagon basin surrounded by eight small marble columns ; and this basin is asserted to have served as a bath. Those who maintain the opinion that the building was a temple, declare that this basin was designed for baptism, and that this was probably one of the primitive Christian churches. But as Sir Roger de Coverley used to remark, " much may be said on both sides ;" and much *has* been said, leaving the supporters of the different opinions still wedded to their own. The columns in the church are of oriental alabaster, and *verd-antique* ; and the workmanship offers incontestible proof of the grandeur of the ancient Nuceria, when they were erected. The other parts of the edifice bear marks of having been the work of a later age ; and the decline of taste may be traced in them. At a short distance from Nocera, we

saw the ruins of the castle, from which the haughty Urban VI. fulminated his excommunication against the army of Naples, which besieged him in 1378, headed by Otho, Duke of Brunswick, fourth husband of Jane, the first Queen of Naples.

From Nocera to La Cava, the same beautiful scenery presents itself, and the latter town is superior to most of a similar extent in the Neapolitan dominion, being well built and clean. The principal street has arcades on each side, which adds much to the beauty of its appearance, and the inhabitants have an air of tidiness and comfort. It was among the wild and romantic scenery in the vicinity of La Cava, that Salvator Rosa and Poussin studied nature in her grandest and most picturesque forms, and several of the subjects of their pictures may be here discovered.

The entrance to Salerno offers one of the finest views that can be imagined. Placed at the foot of the mountains of Gragnano, which are considered among the highest of the Apennines, and bathed by the blue waves of the Mediterranean, its beautiful Gulf may be said to rival the Bay of Naples, to which it bears a striking resemblance. The ruins of an ancient fortress, crowning the summit of a steep and rocky mountain, of a pyramidal form, which towers on high as a barrier, to protect the town beneath it, adds much to the beauty of the scene; as do three other ancient castles, placed on separate and less elevated mountains in the vicinity, which forms a fine back-ground to the picture. No one who has seen the delicious scenery which this spot presents, can wonder at its having been sung by almost all the poets of the Augustan age; for it still preserves sufficient charms to justify their admiration. At Cumæ and Baiæ, we look in vain for the originals of those pictures given us by the poets, and for those scenes whose attractions drew the luxurious Romans to their shores. All is changed; for Nature, more cruel than Time, has by her revolutions effaced much, if not all, their charms, converting those once lovely scenes into dreary wastes, exhaling pestilential gales around.

Salerno, after the war with Hannibal, having been rebuilt by the Romans, was raised to the rank of a Roman colony, and the Emperor appointed governors, to whom were intrusted the charge of maintaining the conquests successively achieved in Lucania and Brutium; the governors residing part of the year at Reggio, and part at Salerno. After having suffered all the revolutions to which Italy was exposed in after times, and having been taken and pillaged by the Saracens, Duke Robert Guiscard, in the eleventh century, repaired and beautified it, and for that purpose, removed from Pæstum the antique ornaments that decorate the cathedral. The ancient Salerno was celebrated for its schools of medicine,

which may be traced up even to the period when in possession of the Saracens and Moors. It is said that the Saracens particularly cultivated the science of medicine, and that a certain Costantino, named the African, from the place of his birth, after having made considerable progress in the study of languages; and after having travelled, and exercised his professional skill in different countries, established himself at Salerno, and laid the foundation of that medical school which afterwards attained so much celebrity. This African is reported to have embraced the Christian religion, and to have become Abbot of Monte Cassino, where he had several pupils. Giannoni states that the monks of Monte Cassino were considered the most able physicians of that age, and adds that, Pope Innocent II., in a decree passed in a council, held at Rome in 1139, commands the monks not to further study a science, the practice of which might degenerate into a grand abuse, and prove injurious to religion. This is only one of many examples of the hindrance given to the progress of arts and science by the Roman pontiffs, who seem, in their zeal for the salvation of the soul, to have quite overlooked the preservation of the body. It is gratifying to observe the more rational and enlightened conduct of Duke Roger, who enacted a law to prohibit all persons from practising medicine, who had not been examined and approved by the doctors of Salerno. This law was confirmed by the Emperor Barbarossa, in 1150, only eleven years after the bigotted decree of Pope Innocent II.; and he added to it the penalties of confiscation of the property, and one year's imprisonment on all who infringed this law.

The cathedral of Salerno having been destroyed by the Saracens, the present building was constructed by the order of Robert Guiscard.(1) The modern repairs have been so injudiciously and tastelessly carried into effect, as to leave few traces of the gothic splendour, which, judging by the pulpit and rostrum, which still retain their original beauty, must have marked it. They are decorated with mosaics, composed of marbles of the rarest kind, the colours so well contrasted, as to produce the most brilliant effect. Two magnificent columns of verd antique, have been converted into candelabra, and are placed at each side of the choir; the branches for lights spring from the tasteless modern capitals, which ill assort with the beauty of the shafts. The church contains three antique sarcophagi, ornamented with bassi-relievi, which make up, in spirit of design and gracefulness of attitude, for their deficiency in delicacy of execution. Two of the sarcophagi represent the triumphs of Bacchus and Ariadne; and the third, which contains the ashes of a bishop, is graced with

(1) Son of Tancred, immortalized by the verse of Tasso.

the Rape of Proserpine, and the pursuit of Ceres in search of her ; a most pagan decoration for the sepulchre of a saintly son of the Church ! Two vases of singular beauty, are now used as lustral vases here. On one is represented the arrival of Alexander at Nisa, and the ambassadors beseeching his clemency for the town ; and on the other, the pleasures of the vintage. The court of the cathedral is surrounded by a peristyle, the columns of which, about thirty in number, have been brought from Pæstum. They are of granite, cippolino, and white marble, and the capitals by no means correspond with them. Some are of the Corinthian order, and the others a bad mixture of the composite ; affording proofs both in design and execution, of the degeneracy of the arts when they were constructed. Beneath the peristyle are placed fourteen marble sarcophagi, some Greek, and the others Roman, of the time of the consuls, ornamented with bassi-relievi. The most remarkable represents the chase of Meleager, which seems to have been a very favourite subject with the ancients, as I have remarked it on numberless sarcophagi. Others have the heads of victims, decorated with garlands of flowers and fillets, well executed.

There is something akin to the ludicrous in seeing antique vases and tazzas, on which are sculptured bacchanalian orgies and pagan festivals, crowned by modern covers, adorned with images of the Madonna, or of some saint, pope, or bishop, who appear as if presiding over the impious rites represented beneath. An acquaintance of mine, lately returned from Sicily, saw there a most absurd transformation of an antique marblesphynx into a Madonna, which was effected by placing a crown on the head ; but the rest of the figure retains its original character : yet round this monstrosity he beheld a crowd of kneeling votaries !

In the centre of the court of the cathedral is a large antique basin, formed out of one single piece of granite. It is thirteen feet in diameter, and of a very fine form. The present government tried to remove it to Naples, but failed in the attempt ; and materially injured one side of the basin in making it.

The Subterranean Church which is immediately beneath the cathedral, is very richly decorated ; being entirely cased, ceiling included, with various coloured marbles of the rarest qualities, which reflect the lamps like mirrors on every side, and produce a most brilliant effect. In the centre of this church, inclosed at the foot of the altar, is the body of St. Matthew, which is preserved with great care. Two bronze figures of the saint are placed near his remains, and are said to be endowed with many miraculous properties. But the object which our ciccone seemed to think the most worthy of attention, and to which he led us with an air of

mingled awe and pride, was a mutilated fragment of a column, before which he requested us to kneel, and approach our ears to it. We obeyed his wishes, and heard a sound similar to that which is produced by a large shell under similar circumstances; but which the pious father assured us was the noise of the gushing blood of a martyr, who had been decapitated on this broken column. This seeming miracle, so easily explained by the merest tyro in acoustics, it would be here considered nothing short of sacrilege to question; and when one sees the uses to which superstition *can* be applied, it is easy to perceive *why* science finds so little encouragement among the priesthood of the Roman Catholic religion.

Salerno possesses many of the disadvantages, as well as the advantages, of Naples. If its bay and the beautiful scenery of its environs, may be compared with those of its capital, it has also its noise and dirt in a proportionate degree; and the streets in the evening are filled with persons of all ages and sexes, whose loud and discordant voices mingled together, produce a most stunning effect on the ears of a stranger; while the intolerable odours of tobacco and garlic, the inhabitants being exceedingly addicted to the use of both these delicacies, occasion an equally disagreeable effect on his olfactory nerves.

Driven from our walk on the shore, by the noise and stench, we entered a boat, and were rowed over the beautiful bay, which was as calm and pellucid as the smoothest lake. The view of the town, and the mountains above it, from the water, is fine beyond the power of description; and the bright colours of the costumes of the peasantry looked picturesque. The whole scene from the distance was beautiful; so beautiful that it was difficult to imagine it could be the one whence we were only a few minutes previously driven by its intolerable atmosphere of tobacco and garlic, and its noise. One of our boatmen, on hearing me make the observation, philosophically remarked, that many of the scenes which looked fair from a distance, were found to be far from agreeable when reached: a truth that none of us were disposed to dispute.

The Italian language, so soft and musical when spoken by the upper classes, loses all its charms, when screamed, rather than uttered, by the people, and sounds as barbarously as Irish, or Welsh. Who that has heard it fall meltingly from the lips of a Fodore, or any of the other prima donnas of the Italian Opera, in recitative, could imagine that it was the same language that shocks one's ears in all the streets in Italy, where the lower classes congregate?

From Salerno to Pæstum, we saw little worthy of note, except a distant prospect of Eboli, a nearer one of Persano, a hunting-palace of the King of Naples; and the river Silaro, now called Sele,

remarkable for the petrifying quality of its water. On a plain, bounded on one side by a fine chain of mountains, and open to the Gulf of Salerno on the other, stand the temples so deservedly celebrated; and the first view of which must strike every beholder with admiration. Nor is this sentiment diminished on approaching them; for the beauty of their proportions, and the rich and warm hues stamped on them by time, as they stand out in bold relief against the blue sky, which forms so charming a back-ground to every Italian landscape, render the spot, even independent of the classical associations with which it is fraught, one of the most sublime and interesting imaginable. The solitude and desolation of the country around, where nought but a wretched hovel, a short distance from the temples, erected for the accommodation of the post-horses of the visitors to Pæstum, breaks on the silent grandeur of the scene, adds to the sublime effect of it. The blue sea in the distance, and the chain of mountains as blue, bounding the horizon, complete the picture. And these fine monuments of antiquity, with others in a more dilapidated state, are all that remain of the grandeur of a place, the possession of which was contested by the Samnites, Picentines, Doriens, Sybarites, and Romans!

I have been reading a translation of Solin, an ancient author, who gives some details of Pæstum: and I have looked into a translation of Strabo, who states that, "after the inhabitants of the Campania, came the Samnites and the Picentines, whom the Romans established at the Bay of Posidonia, at present called Pæstum. The Sybarites built a wall, which reached to the sea, and obliged the inhabitants to retire further into the country." Among the details left by Athénée, of the successive enslavement and destruction of the Greek colonies, is a very interesting passage, which that author quotes from Aristoxenes, a philosopher and celebrated musician of Tarentum, and a disciple of Aristotle. "We," said he, "like the Posidonians of the Gulf of Tyrrhene, who, of Greek origin, had degenerated and become barbarous Tyrrhenes, or more properly speaking Romans, assemble, following their custom, on certain fête days, and recalling to memory their name and ancient habits, deplore their loss; and separate, after having mingled their tears, their regrets, and their griefs. It is thus that our theatres, having become barbarous, and the taste for music being quite corrupted, we assemble in small parties to weep our change, in recalling to memory our ancient music." (1) "This passage," says Pausanias, "forcibly reminds one of the Jews, when, dispersed by the Emperor Adrian and forbidden to meet or speak of their country, they were compelled to pay for the melancholy indulgence of mingling their tears one day in the year."

(1) Aristoxenes of Tarentum lived about 324 years before Christ.

We looked in vain for some traces of the roses of Pæstum, so celebrated by the poets of the Augustan age, that they seldom noticed flowers without referring to them. Virgil, Propertius, Ovid, Ausonius, and Martial, have praised them; but these beauties of nature, like all those of art, for which Pæstum was once so noted, have passed away, and nothing but the temples and a few ruins remain, to attest its former splendour.

The temple of Neptune, the most remarkable as well as ancient of the three edifices, was the one we first examined. It is built of a porous stone, which resembles cork, and bears marks of having formerly been coated with cement. A young architect of no ordinary promise, Mr. Charles Mathews, who accompanied us in this tour, measured the temples, and to him, who will, I hope, publish a detailed account of them, I leave minute particulars, contenting myself with a general description. In the temple of Pæstum we met Mr. George Howard, (1) Mr. Archibald Macdonald, and Mr. Millingen, celebrated for his antiquarian lore, who gave us an erudite *résumé* of all that has been known, or *supposed* to be known, (the latter division being much more voluminous than the former) of the temples, and of Posidonia. I might enrich the pages of my journal, by noting down some portion of the results of his learned epitome; but, truth to say, my mind was so filled by the reflections on the instability of human greatness, to which the sight of these stupendous monuments of antiquity had given birth, that I was more disposed to loiter alone amidst the ruins, than to profit, as I ought to have done, by listening to his details. There was something so solemn and imposing in the view of these temples, that the eye and the mind must be accustomed to it, before one could bestow an adequate attention on the ingenious hypotheses connected with them. When I looked on their proud fronts, which had braved the assaults of time during so many centuries, and now stood rearing their heads to the blue and cloudless sky above them, I could not help smiling at the little groups moving round their base, who looked like pigmies near these gigantic monuments; yet who, forgetful of how many thousands of their race had passed away since these temples had been erected, or even since they had been considered as antiquities, and how many thousands will pass away before they are vanquished by time, were here discussing them as if *they*, and not the temples were doomed to live for ages to come!

My sombre reflections were interrupted by the arrival of a barouche, laden with visitors to Pæstum; among whom were the young and the gay, whose joyous voices sounded strangely in the temple, and whose white draperies, seen floating between the

(1) The present Viscount Morpeth.

columns, had a picturesque effect. I heard sundry allusions to the last "delightful ball at Naples," or the pleasant excursion to Pompeii, as the youthful groups passed through the temples; while the more mature were thoughtful, and examined the ruins, as those only whom Time has touched look on objects that remind them of the tyrant's power. There is no sympathy between the very young and gay, and such scenes as those of Pæstum—*mais le temps viendra!*

The temple of Neptune stands between that called the Basilica and the temple of Ceres, and antiquarians pronounce it to be of a much more ancient date. It has two peristyles, divided by a wall; the exterior containing fourteen columns, and the interior has two storeys of columns of a less size. The edifice is placed on a platform, ascended by three very high steps; its length appeared to me to be about two hundred feet, and its breadth about eighty. The cella, which is raised above the rest of the temple, is inclosed by low walls, and has a double row of columns, which support an architrave, above which are other smaller columns. The altars for sacrifice are still to be seen in this temple; but the Basilica has neither altar nor cella. The length of this last, is about a hundred and sixty-five, or seventy feet, and the width near eighty. The front of the Basilica has nine columns, and the sides sixteen each, with a row of pillars in the interior parallel to those of the sides.

The temple of Ceres is considerably less in its dimensions than either of the others. It also is elevated on a platform, ascended by three steps; it has six columns in front, and thirteen on each side; and in the interior is a vestibule sustained by six columns, leading to the cella, which is raised on a platform of four steps. This cella is surrounded by a low wall, and the sites of the altars are marked. The length of the temple of Ceres is about a hundred feet, and the breadth about fifty. The exterior is ornamented with a frieze and cornice, of the Doric order; and the remains of a mosaic pavement are still visible. Mr. Millingen thought it worthy of remark, that the altars in these temples fronted the east. Fragments of bassi-relievi, of bold design and excellent workmanship, mark the site of the Theatre; and attest the progress attained, even in the remote times of its erection, in sculpture. Of the Amphitheatre little remains, save the caves for wild beasts, and some indications of the rows of seats.

A collation, that would not have shamed the Sybarite inhabitants said to have once possessed Pæstum, was spread in the temple of Neptune; to which, after ample justice had been rendered, succeeded a highly intellectual treat, as M. George Howard complied with the pressing request of the company to recite a poem, written

by him when at college, on the ruins we were then contemplating. The poem was admirable, and so spirited, as to convey an impression, that it must have been written on the spot, and under the inspiration which the actual scene, and not merely a classical description of it, had created. Mr. G. Howard is a highly gifted young man, with a mind enriched by assiduous cultivation, and manners at once open, manly, cordial, and yet dignified. He is calculated to make friends wherever he is known, and to support the noble name he bears, in all its pristine lustre.

We returned to Salerno, where we spent a very agreeable evening. The strangers who joined our party at Pæstum, being no less delighted than surprised by the extraordinary facility and felicity with which Mr. Charles Mathews personated different mendicants, who had assailed us with their entreaties for relief, on our route in the morning; and of whom he gave such perfect imitations in the dusk of the evening, that some of the party who had previously bestowed their charity, reproached the supposed beggars for again demanding it in the same day. Mr. C. Mathews has acquired a proficiency in the different patois of the Italian provinces that is quite surprising, especially when we recollect the short time in which it has been attained; and he emulates his father in the Proteus-like versatility with which he can assume any shape he pleases, of which he gives many very amusing examples.

We embarked at Salerno, intending to proceed by sea to *Castellamare*, where we had sent our carriages to meet us; but a fresh breeze rendered the briny element so uncongenial to some of our party, that we were induced, though at no slight risk of having our boat swamped by the breakers near the shore, to effect a landing near Amalfi. Nothing could be more rich or romantic than the views presented to us, as we glided along the side of this beautiful coast. Steep cliffs crowned by many a convent spire glittering in the sun; ruined towers half covered by ivy; grottos, and caverns formed in the rocks, through which the sea rushed sonorously, and around the entrance to which the snowy sea-gulls were flying, formed pictures that continually reminded one of the sources of the scenery which Salvator so much delighted to paint. At some spots, groups of men were seen, sending down from the giddy steeps, by the medium of ropes, large bundles of wood, to load boats waiting to receive them; and the boatmen displayed no little skill and dexterity in steadying their little vessels while being laden, and rocked by the heavy swell of the sea. Our crew, with their white shirts, short drawers, and scarlet caps, looked like the pictures I have seen of Greek sailors, their bronzed throats, chests, and muscular legs and arms being left uncovered; and their jetty curled locks escaping from the scarlet caps, beneath which their

dark eyes flashed with animation. The whole formed a striking scene to those whom the sea left well enough to enjoy it; among which favoured few I was so fortunate as to find myself. But there were among our party some individuals, whose piteous looks and ghastly complexions, proclaimed their incapability of deriving pleasure from the lovely scenery we were passing. In compassion, therefore, to their misery, we turned our boat towards the shore, at about two miles' distance from Amalfi; and had it dragged through a boiling and brawling surf which, luckily for us, owing to the steepness of the bank, was but shallow, although it broke rudely against our boat, and treated our garments rather uncereemoniously.

The boatmen of the Neapolitan coast are a bold and hardy race; they row with extraordinary rapidity, singing snatches of their national barcaroles, while they impel the boat along, or bantering each other with a gaiety and vein of comic wit that are very amusing.

We had a delightful walk to Amalfi, stopping on the way to examine a very large manufactory of macaroni; the extreme cleanliness of which served to remove the prejudices entertained by some of us, with regard to the mode in which this succulent and favourite food of the Neapolitans is made. The partiality of an Irishman for his potatoes, of a Scotsman for his bannocks, or a Welshman for his leeks, is cold and tame in comparison with the Neapolitan's enthusiastic preference for macaroni. The promise of an ample supply of it, is the most powerful incentive that can be held out to him. Its very name seems to act as a magical talisman on his feelings, nerving his arm with new force to urge on his boat; or to cleave the tide with arrowy speed when he dashes into it, to dive for some object thrown in to exercise his powers of swimming. I have seen such wonderful exploits in diving performed by some of the Neapolitan boatmen, as to render the story of Nicolo, the celebrated diver of Palermo, no longer so fabulous as it appeared to me when I first perused it.

Amalfi justifies all the commendations bestowed on it, for the beauty of its situation; but no trace of its former importance remains, though celebrated by the poets Geoffry Malaterra and William, called the Apedien, who state that its walls contained fifty thousand citizens, and that its commerce extended to the banks of Africa, Arabia, and India. The Amalfians still claim the distinction of their town having given birth to the inventor of the mariner's compass, although the statement has been called in question; no doubt, however, exists that this useful invention originated in Italy. Notwithstanding that Amalfi is now reduced from a flourishing city to a rural village, it still boasts a church enriched with the

usual quantity of marble, gilding, and paintings, to be found in all Italian churches ; and of which its simple inhabitants seem to be not a little vain. We loitered in this romantically situated spot, exploring its many natural beauties, until chairs, borne on poles, resting on men's shoulders, were prepared to convey us across the mountains to Castellamare. This is the only mode of conveyance to be procured, and, as visitors to Amalfi are "like angel visits, few and far between," we found some difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of men to bear our large party ; four men being required for each chair, with four more to act as a relay when the previous chair-bearers were fatigued. At first I confess I felt rather nervous at finding myself conveyed rapidly along, elevated on the shoulders of my porters ; nor could I conquer the repugnance naturally entertained, at witnessing men performing the functions of horses, or mules ; but the gaiety with which the task was undertaken, and the celerity with which it was performed, soon reconciled me to so unusual a mode of travelling. The chair-bearers only requiring the occupants to maintain a perfect equilibrium, advanced in a rapid trot up the steepest mountain tracks, crossed ravines, through which gushed sparkling water ; and descended heights that made one giddy to look down, with a velocity, yet surety of foot, that was truly surprising. Songs and jokes enlivened the way, these cheerful men keeping up a continual and exuberant gaiety, that thus manifested itself, and the relays slipping into the places of the tired chair-bearers so quickly, that the person borne was unconscious of the operation.

No description can render justice to the beauty of the scenery between Amalfi and Castellamare, one moment offering views of the blue Mediterranean, seen sparkling over the groves and vineyards, between it and the mountains, and the next showing a convent-crowned eminence, rising from a mass of wood, or a ruined fortress standing on some bold projection of rock. The hamlets through which we passed, were exceedingly picturesque. Each had its fountain, round which groups of women were filling their classically shaped water-jugs, singing, laughing, and chatting the while ; their dark hair rolled like those of the antique female statues, and their scanty drapery revealing just enough of their figures to give them the appearance of having furnished the models, of the rural-nymphs we see in some of the pictures of the old masters. They saluted us gracefully, offered some of the sparkling water, whose coldness they praised ; and exchanged smiles and pleasantries with our chair-bearers, which, though fraught with gaiety, were free from even an approach to coarseness. In one hamlet, Gragnano, the women are famed for their beauty, and though prepared to see them more than usually

good-looking, they surpassed our expectations. Tall, stately, and well formed, with dark glossy tresses, bound gracefully round their heads, flashing eyes, and clear brown complexions, through which a rich crimson mounted to their cheeks, they really were so charming, that I wished to have had a painter on the spot, who could have rendered justice to such admirable subjects for his pencil. The elderly women were for the most part occupied in plying the distaff, or in tending the little sturdy sun-burnt children, nearly in a state of nudity, who were playing around them; and the male inhabitants seemed to be all absent, engaged in agricultural labour, for we scarcely saw any, except some very old men, who were sunning themselves on stone benches before their doors.

We were not sorry to find a good dinner awaiting us at Castellamare; after partaking which, we returned to Naples, highly delighted with our expedition, not the least gratifying part of which had been our passage over the mountains from Amalfi to Castellamare. Castellamare is much frequented in summer. It stands beneath Mount Lactarius, celebrated by Galen for the salubrity and mildness of its air; and is but a short distance from Stabia, where Pliny the historian was suffocated by the sulphurous vapours from Vesuvius.

Mr. George Howard accompanied us yesterday, on an excursion to the Torre di Patria, which stands where once flourished the ancient Liternum, and is renowned as being the place to which Scipio Africanus retired, when driven from Rome by the ingratitude of his countrymen, and where he died. The word "Patria" is still visible on the tower, but nothing else of the epitaph, "*Ingrata patria, ne quidem ossa mea habes*," written by Scipio to be inscribed on his tomb, remains. The tower is beyond doubt of a so much more modern date than the event it seems meant to have commemorated, that it can only be received as evidence of the desire of some generation subsequent to that in which Scipio lived, to mark the site by its erection and inscription: but as even in the time of Pliny the precise spot of interment appears not to have been ascertained, it is not wonderful that in our day doubts are thrown out as to this being really the place where his bones were laid. The scenery around the tower is the least attractive of any in the vicinity of Naples. The ground is marshy, and exhales an effluvium that precludes a long sojourn in its neighbourhood; and the want of trees, leaves those who visit the spot in summer, exposed to the scorching beams of the sun, which still more excites the insalubrious vapours of the marsh into action. Every step in the environs of Naples is pregnant with classical associations, and the pleasure of exploring such

scenery is greatly enhanced by the companionship of those whose minds are so highly cultivated, and enriched by learning, that the view of places to which a classical interest is attached, awakens in them invaluable stores of erudition to delight their associates. We felt this yesterday, when some of our party, with memories as tenacious as their tastes are refined, rendered our visit to the Torre di Patria a very delightful one, by the classical reminiscences it awakened, and the information of ancient times they conveyed.

Sir Wm. Drummond has sent me his "Origines," a work requiring all the patient research and profound erudition for which he is remarkable. It rarely occurs that a person who devotes so much of his time to literary labours, should be so brilliant a conversationist as is this gifted man. The versatility of his knowledge is really surprising; proofs of which are elicited by every subject to which conversation may turn, "from grave to gay, from lively to severe."

Lord Dudley took us yesterday to see the Villa Gallo, at Capo di Monte, the pleasure grounds of which are quite beautiful; presenting all the varieties of hill and vale, with rustic bridges spanning limpid streams, and grottos of large dimensions offering delicious retreats from the garish and too fervid rays of the burning sun. Many of the plants, to be found only in hothouses with us, here grow luxuriantly in the open air; and, among the trees, the fine cedars are contrasted by a palm-tree of great beauty, which imparts an Oriental character to the picture. Terraces rise over terraces, filled with flowering shrubs, and giving a notion of the hanging gardens of Babylon; and the views of Vesuvius and Naples, seen from them, with the Caudine Forks near Capua in the distance, form a delightful prospect. "I often think of this enchanting spot," said Lord Dudley, "when shivering in the rude breeze of an ungenial English spring or a premature autumn, when the dense and chilly atmosphere has as baleful an effect on the spirits as on the health, and wish myself an occupant of the sunny Villa Gallo. I assure you it sometimes requires no little self-control and patriotic feeling, to resist becoming a dweller in some such place in Italy, and leaving our damp country-seats and dingy London houses untenanted."

Lord Dudley spoke in high terms of commendation to-day of Lord Ashley, whom we encountered on our route to the Villa Gallo. He thinks him one of the most promising young men that we have in England, and augurs a brilliant career for him.

Lord Ponsonby dined with us yesterday; he has come to Naples from the Ionian Isles, where he has been residing some time. He is well-informed, and exceedingly distinguished in his manners and

bearing, both presenting a perfect type of aristocratic high-breeding. In England, he was, I am told, considered merely as a fashionable and very gentlemanlike man (the terms are *not* synonymous); and only such perhaps he might have continued to the present hour, had circumstances not induced him to fix his residence for some years in a place where so little temptation, in the way of society offered, that as a defence from the inroads of ennui, he devoted much of his time to reading; the fruits of which are agreeably visible in his conversation, which, while perfectly free from even the semblance of pedantry, abounds with information, never obtruded, but always available in society.

We returned yesterday from a very agreeable excursion to Beneventum, known to the ancients by the less happy one of Maleventum; to which name, however, nothing is observable in its site or air to entitle it. Mr. George Howard accompanied us. The route to this ancient city passes through a country not less remarkable for the beauty of some parts of its scenery, than for the interesting souvenirs attached to them. Among these is the village called Le Forche d'Arpaja, said to be the ancient Caudium, the defile near it being, as is asserted, the Furcæ Caudinæ. But, like most subjects of antiquity in Italy, this also is much disputed; many antiquaries maintaining that the real site of the Furcæ Caudinæ is higher up; so that those who wish to contemplate the scene of Roman subjection, and Samnite clemency, will be puzzled to ascertain at which of the disputed spots they are to pause.

We were very much incommoded by the dust which penetrated into the carriage, in spite of having the glasses, with one exception, drawn up, and literally covered our garments; until no trace of their original tints could be seen, and half blinded and suffocated us. The costume of the women along the route was singular, and more picturesque than neat. It consisted of a roll of linen bound round their heads, and mingled with their long dark tresses; while a scanty drapery, which could not be called a petticoat, as it was open before, and met by an apron, scarcely concealing the coarse chemise, whose corsage shaded the bosom, completed the dress. It was fortunate that we had sent on our courier the previous day to Beneventum, to prepare a domicile for us; for the town contains but one inn, and private lodgings are out of the question. Some notion of the *agrément*s of this said inn may be formed when I state that the only approach to the *premier étage* was through a stable, filled with horses and bullocks, where a rough staircase, resembling a ladder, enabled us to reach the rooms prepared for us; and which, as might be expected, were strongly impregnated with the odour of the stable beneath them. Palchetti, our courier, had achieved wonders in this miserable dwelling, for he had

arranged a room in it to serve the double purpose of *salle-d-manger* and *salon*, by dismissing from it not less than six beds, and white-washing the walls. But notwithstanding this salutary precaution, he had not been able to get rid of the animated inhabitants of the banished beds; for quantities of them might be seen hovering around, and not a few were hopping over the white-washed walls. There was no glass in the windows in this, the only inn of the famed Beneventum; so that no choice remained but that of sitting in darkness by closing the shutters, or freely admitting the air, by having them open, which last alternative we adopted. Our dormitories did not shame our *salon* by the comfort of their arrangements. Iron frames, on each of which was laid a sack, filled with the straw of Indian corn, with a large pillow *en suite*; two wooden chairs, a table, and two jugs of water, formed the contents of each chamber. A looking-glass, of even the smallest dimensions, was not to be procured; but, thanks to well-supplied *nécessaires*, we managed to dispense with the aid of our hostelry. It was also fortunate that we had brought with us a plentiful stock of provisions, for the inn could offer nothing but lean beef resembling horseflesh, eggs that looked anything but fresh, and potatoes so stunted in their growth, as to prove that they were an exotic luxury.

Beneventum stands on an eminence, beneath a lofty chain of hills, and is washed by the river Calore, over which is a bridge, that constitutes a great ornament to the town. The triumphal arch of Trajan, forms one of the gates of entrance to Beneventum; it is composed of marble, and consists of a single arch. Its sides are enriched by four Corinthian pillars, placed on pedestals, and the interior and exterior are covered with well-executed *relievi*, representing the achievements of the emperor. Although this arch is generally admired, it falls short of my expectations. The sculpture looks meagre, and is fatiguing to the eye to contemplate; yet, as one of the best preserved monuments of antiquity in Italy, it offers a very interesting object to those who, like me, love to dwell on such sights. Near a mill, in the outskirts of the town, some huge fragments of stone, said to be the remains of an ancient bridge, were pointed out to us, of which the miller seemed not commonly proud. This pride in the wrecks of former splendour, is peculiar to the Italians; who having little in the present to boast of, save their delicious climate and beautiful country, turn with complacency to the remnants of their past grandeur. The Cathedral is of large dimensions, and is a mixture of the Gothic and Saracenic style of architecture, which produces a good effect. It contains an abundance of white marble columns, said to have belonged to antique temples in the neighbourhood; but has little else to recommend it to attention. As we sauntered through the town

of Beneventum, we observed several persons entering a church, into which we also bent our steps, and witnessed one of those exhibitions so common in Italy; where the enthusiasm and passionate warmth of the preachers, so frequently lead them to overstep the propriety of their calling. The matter of the sermon and manner of this expounder of the Roman Catholic Faith, were truly surprising, and to say the truth, not a little shocking to our feelings, although the rest of the congregation evinced great admiration, for what to us appeared so *outré* and indecorous. On returning to our inn, Mr. C. Mathews gave us the most perfect imitation imaginable of this preacher; nay, even contrived to look like him, though, in reality, no two persons could well be more dissimilar.

We stopped to see Caserta, on our route to Beneventum. It reflects credit on the munificence of Charles III., and on the architectural taste and skill of Vanvitelli; and is justly accounted the most magnificent residence of which any sovereign is possessed. The portico which forms the entrance is above five hundred feet in length, and the staircase is the finest imaginable. The chapel is very beautiful, and the theatre is positively splendid. But the aqueduct, though I saw it only from a distance, attracted my admiration more than the palace, fine as it is. Nothing can form a more beautiful picture in a landscape; and as a mere object of beauty, without reference to its utility, it forms a suitable appendage to a palace.

Mr. G. Howard accompanied us on our excursion to Beneventum, and added much to its agreeability by his society, and the interest and information he evinced in the objects of antiquity that we examined. His is an active, as well as a highly cultivated mind, and the brilliancy of his imagination, which is displayed in many graceful poems, has not deteriorated the calm good sense for which he is remarkable.

We ascended Vesuvius a few days ago, accompanied by our amiable friend, Sir William Gell. Nothing could be more propitious than the weather; the atmosphere being of its usual clearness, and the air unusually cool and refreshing. We left our carriages at Resina, and entered the house of San-Salvador, the most esteemed of all the guides to Vesuvius, while the asses, who were to bear us to the hermitage, were getting ready for the expedition. From the window of Salvador's dwelling a scene presented itself worthy the pencil of Hogarth, and to which his alone, or that of the admirable Wilkie, on whom his mantle has descended, could have rendered justice. To convey our party, which consisted but of eight, sixteen asses attended by thrice as many men and boys, followed by their mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and aunts, were assembled; all and each anxious that the ass or asses belong-

ing to their family should be engaged, and vociferating loudly the most hyperbolical commendations of theirs, and the most unqualified abuse of the animals of their competitors. The dresses of this animated group, were composed of the gaudiest colours, and were sufficiently tattered to satisfy the most ardent admirer of the picturesque. Salvador having selected eight of the most promising looking asses, we proceeded to mount our patient steeds; but we found this no easy operation to effect, owing to the angry violence of the rejected ass proprietors, who assailed the accepted ones, not only with torrents of abuse but with sundry blows, from which the gentlemen, and servants who attended us, had great difficulty in shielding our persons in the *mêlée*. The donkeys on which we were mounted, came in for several of the blows aimed at their owners; and became so restive in consequence, that we could scarcely retain our seats. The women and girls took an active part in the fray, loading the rival factions with the bitterest invectives: and, suiting the action to the word, laid violent hands on each other's drapery and head-gear. Although exposed to the chance of sharing the blows meant for our donkey-men, the whole scene was so irresistibly comic, that personal fear was forgotten in the laughter it excited. At length we escaped from our assailants, and proceeded on our route to the hermitage; which, for the first mile, passes through vineyards. Our guide pointed out to us the villa of *Mi Lor* Grandorge, a very respectable English shopkeeper established at Naples, but whom the peasants honour with the designation of "*Mi Lor*"—a custom peculiar to this country. They declared he was a true nobleman and had great possessions. Sir William Gell asked them, "how it was that they imagined a grand English lord could keep a shop and serve his customers," when one of them answered that "he knew *all* the English nation kept shops, which made them so rich." This was a curious coincidence with Napoleon's opinion that "the English were a nation of shopkeepers."

After a tedious, though not disagreeable ascent of about three or four miles, over different strata of lava and scorix, each turn in our route offering us the most beautiful views, we arrived at the hermitage, to which we were welcomed by the peal of the bell, just then ringing for prayers. Its measured chime, unbroken by any other sound, with the wide expanse of sea and land spread out beneath us, had a solemn effect; while the sterile mountain above, on a ledge of which we stood, with its blue smoke curling towards the sky, seemed as a beacon to warn us of the destruction it might spread over the beautiful scene upon which we looked. The hermitage stands on a ridge of the mountain; and is so situated that, in an eruption, the lava rushes down in torrents at each side

of it through channels formed by former eruptions, without injuring this quiet abode, which resembles a simple farm-house. This dwelling is sheltered by a few trees, which in so barren a spot, appear to singular advantage; and is inhabited by two hospitable old monks, who "spread their simple store," and press and smile, offering all the refreshments within their limited means to those who call at the hermitage. The view from the stone bench in front of this house is indescribably beautiful; and while enjoying it, the monks approached with biscuits, and some of the *Lachryma Christi*, which they strongly recommended us to taste, to prepare us for the ascent. The profane name given to this wine is pronounced by them with as little reverence as an Englishman evinces on naming sherry: nay, they dwell on it with great unction, declaring that no where else is its vintage to be equalled by that grown on this mountain, the internal heat, as they allege, giving the grape a more delicious flavour.

Having refreshed our donkeys at the hermitage, we again pursued our route along the ridge on which it stands; until we reached the commencement of the very steep ascent, where we were compelled to quit them, leaving Sir William Gell at the hermitage. It was curious to observe a party who were on the summit above us, and who appeared like fairies, their small, dark speck-like figures seen against the bright azure of the cloudless sky that bounded the horizon. Chairs, resembling those used in English farm-houses, and, suspended to poles in a similar way to those that conveyed us across the mountains from Amalfi, were here ready for our use. But having tried one of them for a short time, I found the movement so disagreeable, owing to the chair-bearers slipping, and falling down at nearly every second step, in consequence of the lava and scoræ crumbling beneath their feet, that I preferred descending from my unstable altitude. Assisted by the arm of Salvador, and holding by leather straps fastened round the waist of one of the guides who preceded me, I managed to ascend; but not without considerable difficulty and fatigue; being, like Sisyphus in his task, rolled back at each step, and at each step carrying away loose fragments of lava, gravel, and cinders.

A most piteous sight was presented to us by the ascent of a very fat, elderly Englishman, who commenced this painful operation at the same time that we did. He was, like me, preceded by a guide with leathern straps, to which he adhered with such vigorous tenacity, as frequently to pull down the unfortunate man, who complained loudly. The lava, gravel, and cinders, put in motion by the feet of his conductor, rolling on those of the fat gentleman, extorted from him sundry reproaches, to which, however, the Italian was wholly insensible, not understanding a word of English.

The rubicund face of our countryman was now become of so dark a crimson, as to convey the idea of no slight danger from an attack of apoplexy; and it was bathed, not in dew, but in a profuse perspiration, which fell in large drops on his protuberant stomach. Being afraid to let go the leather straps for even an instant, he was in a pitiable dilemma how to get at his pocket handkerchief. Panting and exhausted, he used a considerable portion of the breath he could so little spare, in uttering exclamations of anger at his own folly in attempting such an ascent; and in reproaches and "curses, not loud but deep," on the stupidity, as he termed it, of his guide. He had not less than eight or ten falls during the ascent; and at each fresh disaster bellowed like a bull, which drew peals of laughter from the chair-bearers and guides. One of our party offered to take out his pocket handkerchief, seeing how much he stood in need of it; an offer which he thankfully accepted, but explained that his pocket was secured by buckles on the inside, to prevent his being robbed; a precaution, he added, that he well knew the necessity of, as those d——d Lazarettos (*Lazaroni* he meant) would not otherwise leave a single article in it. It required no little portion of ingenuity to separate the pocket inside; and while the operation was performing, he kept praying that his purse, snuff-box, or silver flask might not be displayed, lest they might tempt the *Lazarettos* to make away with him, in order to obtain those valuables. "I took care to conceal my watch," said he with a significant look, "for I know these rascals of *Lazarettos* right well. Why, would you believe it, ladies and gentlemen? they pretty nearly knocked me down, in that dirty village where the donkeys are hired. I was up to their tricks, however, and saw, with half an eye, that when they pretended to fight among themselves, it was a mere sham, as an excuse that I might get an unlucky blow between them; when, I warrant me, they would soon have dispatched me, and have divided my property amongst them, but they saw your large party coming and that saved me." I asked why, if his opinion of the Neapolitans was so bad, he ventured alone with them on so hazardous an expedition. "Indeed, ma'am, I never had such a foolish intention; for, would you believe it, I have come to that there dirty village no less than three times, in the hope of meeting a large party of English who might serve as a protection for me; but until to-day, never saw more than one or two persons, therefore I returned as I came. I had heard, however, so much of this burning mountain, that I was determined to look on with my own eyes; for I am one of those who don't believe everything I hear, I can tell you; and more especially about places in foreign parts. In truth, ma'am, I just wanted to be able to say when I got home, 'Why, good people I've been on the spot,

and am up to the whole thing.' It is the desire to surprise, or silence our neighbours that makes all people put themselves to such trouble to see sights; for never tell me that folk take pleasure in rolling about in this here way. No, no, it's all for the sake of astonishing and vexing people when one gets home." We soon left the fat gentleman far behind, consoling him by affirming that as we should be always in sight, no danger could occur from the cupidity or malice of the man who accompanied him; for all attempts to prove that the *Lazarettos*, as he persisted in calling them, were by no means disposed to injure strangers, was out of the question. He only shook his head, gave a knowing wink, and answered, "I'm up to them, take my word for it, I'm up to them!"

On arriving at the summit of the mountain, the view of the sea and land around was so beautiful, that it was impossible to turn our eyes for some time on the object of our visit, the crater. When we did, the fearful contrast it presented to the enchanting scenery beneath, was truly striking. This vast and yawning abyss was sending up a dense smoke, and many parts of it bore evidence to the smouldering fire concealed beneath its surface, by emitting small though lurid flames. When viewing this immense gulf, and reflecting on the destruction it has occasioned, overwhelming cities and towns, and laying waste the most fertile and beautiful lands, it is impossible not to feel a sentiment of awe; and one cannot divest oneself, at least I could not, of a presentiment that in this smouldering crater, I beheld the engine of future destruction to the enchanting country around. No wonder that it presents so deep and vast a concave, when the substance that once filled this immense and burning bowl, has not only hurled ruin over the cities in its immediate neighbourhood, but has been scattered even to remote countries. A stick thrown down became ignited in an instant, and the shifting movement of the substance that lines this gulf, one moment bursting into lurid flames, and the next sinking into a dense smoke, conveys the impression that its volcanic properties are still in activity.

Vesuvius was first noticed by Diodorus Siculus, (1) who states that it then bore evident marks of having suffered from internal fires. Vitruvius asserts, that the fires of Vesuvius had been ejected upon the surrounding country; and Strabo takes notice of the caverns and fissures, with stones, which appear to have been exposed to the action of fire, whence he conjectures this mountain to have been volcanic. Strabo observes that the soil of Vesuvius was peculiarly fertile, excepting the top, near where the caverns alluded to were situated. Martial, shortly after the first eruption, reverts to the altered state of Vesuvius, and dwells on the beauty

(1) Diodorus Siculus flourished about forty-four years before the Christian era.

of its appearance, and its luxuriant vines, and vegetation, previous to that event. Tacitus describes it as presenting a natural fortress; its sloping sides covered with glowing vines.

It is extraordinary that a phenomenon, offering so rich a subject to the imagination of the poet, should not have been seized on by any of those gifted beings, who have immortalized some of the places in its vicinity. The few who have named it, have noticed it only for its fertility, or salubrity; but its horrors, the peculiar province of the poet, have been left untouched. But though poesy, however, has not taken advantage of this wonder of nature, superstition has; for in an account, written A. D. 1062, by Pietro Damiani, we find that the mountain was, in his time, viewed as the abode of supernatural beings, and the place of final punishment for the wicked. He relates many terrific tales on this subject; and asserts, that on the death of any distinguished sinner, the flames burst forth with renewed vigour, as if fed by the fresh fuel afforded by the dead. The use to which so fertile a source of terror might be turned, in a country where superstition is encouraged by the wily and designing, as certain means of producing them power and emolument, was not neglected. When we view the various examples, with which a residence in Italy daily furnishes us, of the gross ignorance, and almost heathenish superstition of the lower orders, even at present, some idea may be conceived of the terrors inflicted on them by so powerful an engine as this volcanic wonder formed, when directed by those in whom they reposed unbounded confidence, and pointed, with unerring aim, at their most vulnerable part.

Our learned countryman, the late Sir William Hamilton, has published an account of Vesuvius that will be read with interest by all who wish for information on the subject: and in the admirable work on Pompeii, by Sir Wm. Gell and Mr. Gandy, whence I have derived much information, many particulars will be found.

A chasm of considerable size, which emitted fire, and lava in a state of fusion, during a former eruption, is still open, and sends up a small column of smoke. One of our guides pointed it out as the grave selected by a Frenchman some years ago, who ascended with an appearance of *sang-froid*, probably unexampled, in one who was meditating suicide. He stood, as the man said, nearly an hour on the summit of the mountain, looking down with apparent delight on the lovely prospect around; then began hastily to descend, and jumped into the chasm, before the guide had the most remote suspicion of his intention. He verified the Neapolitan proverb, *Vedi Napoli e poi mori*, for the last object he looked on was its beautiful coast.

With what delight does the eye turn from the contemplation of

the fearful and yawning crater, to dwell on the glowing picture seen from the summit of Vesuvius ! The bright blue sea, on whose glassy bosom innumerable white sails are flitting, like snow-pinioned birds ; the vine-clad hills and fertile Campania, with the undulating line of the coast reaching out like a crescent towards each end of the Bay ; the Isle of Caprea, shielding it from the rude winds or waves of the ocean ; and Naples descending to the extreme edge of the shore, as if to lave her terraced palaces in its pellucid waters. The promontory of Misenum lifts its head to the right, and the high land of Sorrento bounds the left ; Nisida, Procida, and Ischia are seen rising from the calm bosom of the sea like islands called into life by the wand of enchantment ; and all this lovely scenery is bathed in an atmosphere so transparent, and canopied by a sky so heavenly blue, that it looks as if it were indeed, what the Neapolitans proclaim Naples to be, "A piece of Paradise dropped on earth."

The descent from Vesuvius is a much less difficult operation than the ascent ; and we achieved it, supported on each side by a guide, with a velocity that really surprised me. We encountered the fat old gentleman, panting and puffing, the perspiration literally falling from his crimson face over his garments, and his guide looking nearly as much exhausted as himself. He tried to speak, but so rapid was our course, that his words were lost in the air ; but his rueful countenance fully expressed the state of his feelings.

We found Sir William Gell, and a homely repast, awaiting us at the hermitage ; and hunger lent a flavour to the simple fare, that the most luxurious collation often wants. During our dessert of apples, we amused ourselves with reading the albums of the hermitage, in which the visitors are requested to write their names, with any observation that Vesuvius, or the hermitage, may have suggested. We found, on an average, twenty English to one of any other nation ; and, I regret to add, that the style, grammar, and orthography of the generality of the inscriptions, were not calculated to impress a high opinion of the diffusion of knowledge, or the march of intellect, of which we hear so much in our country. Some French tourists had written severe comments on the inscriptions of the English ; and, with an illiberality too often practised, applied their strictures to the whole nation, for the vulgarity and ignorance of the few writers in the album of the hermitage. Voltaire observed, that "*le caractère d'un peuple est souvent démenti par les vices d'un particulier.*" Thus is England judged by the disgust, excited by some of the worst specimens of her inhabitants. Foreigners cannot, or at least, do not understand, that persons may be rich enough to encounter the expenses of making a tour,

without being sufficiently educated to derive any advantage from it. Travellers of their countries are confined to persons who possess at least enough cultivation to pass current, without any exhibition of the gross vulgarity so often witnessed in ours, who, belonging to all classes, are, not unfrequently, anything but creditable to their country.

Two inscriptions, which I copied from the album, one by an Englishman, and the other by an Hibernian, may serve as specimens of the style of writing, which so strongly excited the censure of the French tourists:—

“John Hallett of the Port of Pople England, whent to see M Vesuvius on the 20th of October 1823, hand I would Recomind anney person that go ther to take a bottle of wine with him, for it his a dry place and verrey bad roade.”

“1823. I have witnessed the famous Mountain of Vesuvius in Italy, and likewise the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland which I prefer. They talk of their lava in a palaver I little understand, and as for the crater, give me a drop of the swait cratur of Dublin in preference.
JAMES G.”

This day the melancholy intelligence of the death of Lord Byron reached us. Alas ! alas ! his presentiment of dying in Greece, has been but too well fulfilled—and, I used to banter him on this superstitious presentiment ! Poor Byron ! long, long will you be remembered by us with feelings of deep regret ! This sad news has thrown a gloom over us all. We have been recalling to memory every word, every look of his, during our last interview. His little gifts of friendship to each of us, the tremulousness of his voice, the kind words, the eyes filled with tears—all, all are now remembered, as if it was only yesterday that we parted ! And but eleven fleeting months have glided away since we left him ; we confidently counting on seeing him again, and he, shaking his head, and with a mournfully prophetic look, declaring his conviction that we should never more meet. There are moments, when I can hardly bring myself to think that Byron is indeed gone for ever : his looks, his voice, are continually in my recollection, ever since I yesterday heard of his death. A thousand circumstances, trifling in themselves, but associated with our *séjour* at Genoa, and constant intercourse with him, are recurring to memory. I have been reading over the notes of his conversations with me ; and could almost fancy, in those well-remembered accents of his, I heard his lips utter the words noted down. How much do I now regret not having fulfilled my promise of writing to him ! a promise so earnestly urged on his part, and the non-per-

formance of which now rises up to reproach me for this seeming unkindness.

LINES ON THE DEATH OF LORD BYRON.

And art thou fled—and is that mind subdued?
That glorious mind, by Genius' self imbued;
Whose bright effusions, free from lame control,
Struck with deep sympathy each generous soul.
And is that hand benumb'd which struck the lyre
With all the fervour of poetic fire,
And sent forth strains that wrung the trembling heart
With feelings thou alone couldst e'er impart?
Alas! the hand's unnerved!—the strain is o'er,
And Britain's noblest poet we deplore.
The narrow grave contains what rests of thee,
Who gave thy life to Greece and Liberty.—
But though thy mighty spirit hence has fled,
And thou art number'd with the silent dead,
As cold and passionless as meaner clay,
That ne'er had glow'd with inspiration's ray,
Thy name shall live, inscribed in Albion's page,
The pride and boast of many a future age:
And pilgrims journeying from each distant land
Shall seek thy grave, and o'er it pensive stand
To read that name, to every nation known,
And dear to each, as if thou wert her own;
While Freedom with the Muse shall o'er thy bier
Entwine their wreaths, embalm'd by many a tear.

It is gratifying to witness how generally lamented Byron is here: the Italians mourn him, as if he belonged to their sunny land; and the place where, and the cause for which he died, increase their respect and regret. What glorious works might we not have expected from the maturity of such a genius, when the fountain that supplied it was no longer troubled by the passions, over which experience and reason were gaining a salutary empire. At thirty-seven, Byron had acquired a self-control, and a distaste for the luxurious indulgences to which so many of even a more advanced age give way, that was as surprising as it was praiseworthy; and his mind, released from the thralldom of the senses, was every day making a rapid progress towards that elevation, to which those who best knew him felt certain he would ultimately arrive. Had a lengthened span of life been granted to him, he would have yet nobly redeemed the errors of his youth, and left works that would have won a pardon for some productions, which all who esteemed him must regret he ever wrote.

Sir William Gell, who was well acquainted with Byron some years ago, is one of the English here who most regret him. He fully understood the character of this wayward and spoiled child of genius, who, favoured to excess by the Muse, was most scurvily

treated by the greater part of his contemporaries, and lashed into satire by the scorpion whips of envy. He has escaped from his enemies now, and sleeps well—insensible to the arrows that detraction never ceased to aim at him, he can no more be wrung by seeing the bitterness with which the envious, a mighty host, pursued him; and that acute sensitiveness, the peculiar attribute of genius, and which forms at once its power and its curse, can no longer be tortured by the malignity, that for years repaid the delight afforded by his poems, by the most envenomed hostility towards the poet. Who would not tremble at the possession of genius, if hatred and vituperation be its reward; and that such is the case, how many examples may we not find in the lives of the most gifted? Who among the brightest ornaments of our literature, has escaped the malevolence of envy? This reflection is consolatory for mediocrity, for better were it to be denied the distinction which genius can confer, than to pay for it at the price of hatred and detraction.

Dined yesterday with the dear good Archbishop of Tarentum, and met some very agreeable people. In the evening several persons, of both sexes, were added to the party. No one ever did the honours of a house so admirably as this excellent and venerable man. He has the happy art of making every guest feel perfectly at ease, and of drawing out the information of each, with a tact peculiarly his own. There is something very interesting, in forming one of a circle, composed of individuals of every land, where each possesses the good breeding and knowledge of the world, so essential to the harmony of society; and are influenced by that desire to please, which half achieves its object. Every one seems amiable at the archbishop's, even — ceases to contradict, and — to grumble. What a proof, of the salutary influence of the host! Russian, German, French, Italian, and English, might all be heard spoken in the same *salon*, last evening, when the visitants were scattered in groups examining the various objects of taste and *virtù* that ornament the apartment. But when his guests assemble round the chair of the dear Archbishop, French or Italian is alone spoken, and his opinions delivered with that suavity which constitutes so great a charm, are listened to with a respectful deference due alike to his age, character, and superior understanding.

June.—Byron is continually recurring to my memory—strange, that while he lived, I thought of him but rarely; yet now, he mingles with every thought. The following lines suggested themselves to me last night, in the last scene, where melancholy reflections might be supposed likely to intrude—a gay musical party—yet so it was.

In gilded halls where crowds surround,
And all are gay, or seem to be,
I shrink from Music's joyous sound,
And pensive Memory strays to thee.

I think upon that lofty brow,
Which I again shall never see,
That in the grave is mouldering now,
And scarce retains a trace of thee.

I think upon those dark gray eyes
Through which the soul shone out, and see
No tint save twilight's soften'd skies
That brings their colour back to me.

I think upon that scornful mouth
That rarely smiled, yet smiled with me;
Like summer lightnings in the south
That smile appear'd, then fled from thee:

I think upon that glorious mind
Inspired by Genius, and can see,
Byron, no poet left behind
To fire or melt the soul like thee.

One of the most agreeable persons at Naples is the Honourable Mr. K. Craven, and his society is consequently much sought after. To a great versatility of knowledge, he unites most graceful manners, considerable skill in music, and performs, as I am told, in genteel comedy, equal to some of the best professional actors. He is universally respected at Naples, and he and his *fidus Achates*, Sir William Gell, are so popular with the Neapolitans, that they have impressed them with a favourable opinion of their compatriots, and disposed them to extend their civility to all recommended to their notice. Sir William Drummond, Sir William Gell, and Mr. K. Craven, having fixed their residence at Naples, render it still more attractive to English travellers; who find in their houses the most rational society, including distinguished foreigners and Italians, as well as good supplies of books. We are so fortunate as frequently to see these amiable and gifted persons, particularly the two first, for Mr. Craven's exemplary attention to his mother, the Margravine of Anspach, who is in delicate health, keeps him much more at home than his friends could wish; but few days pass without our enjoying the society of Sirs William Drummond and Gell. Mathias, too, comes to us frequently, and "God blesses his soul" at every new dainty which our French cook prepares. Two days ago, when he last dined here, this said cook encaged a poor goldfinch in a temple of spun sugar, as an ornament for the centre of the table, for the third course; and the poor bird, while the *convives* were doing honour to the *entremets*, and *sucreries*, fluttered through the temple and beat his

wings against its sugary pillars, till they were encrusted with its clammy substance: all which time Mr. Mathias kept exclaiming, his mouth filled with sweets, "God bless my soul, how strange, how very odd! I never saw a live bird, a real bird in that sort of thing before. Bless my soul, it is very pretty, very curious, indeed; and must have been very difficult to manage." A young child could not have been more pleased with the sight, than Mathias was; and he went away fully impressed with a high opinion of our cook's abilities.

Mr. J. Strangways, the brother of Lord Ilchester, and Mr. H. Bailie, two new arrivals at Naples, dined here yesterday—both well-informed, well-bred, and very agreeable. The young men of the present day, judging from those I see here, are very superior to the race of beaux whom I remember some seven years ago, with little claim to distinction, except the cut of their coats, or the tie of their cravats. The march of intellect has effected great changes; and a young man of family, now-a-days, would be ashamed of the mediocrity formerly so prevalent. This promises well for England. Nor do the young Englishmen who come to Italy, abandon themselves to the temptations of this luxurious capital, or indulge in the delicious habits of the *dolce far niente*, which the climate disposes people to do. Those whom I know, read attentively, compare places with the descriptions given of them in history, and make themselves well-acquainted with the policy of the country, its laws, and constitution. They acquire much useful information to fit them for a future career of utility in the senate at home; and I have seen scarcely one, who does not give the promise of proving excellent citizens to Old England.

The Duke of Rocco Romano and Prince Ischittelli dined with us yesterday. The former is full of anecdotes, and recounts them with a peculiar grace and vivacity: a better specimen of an Italian gentleman could not be found; well-informed, dignified yet lively, and with a profound deference in his manner towards women, that reminds one of the days of chivalry. Though advanced in years, (report states him to be near sixty,) his military bearing, and the elasticity of his spirits, give him the appearance of being at least twenty years younger. He was, in his youth, considered to be the flower of the Neapolitan nobility; and innumerable are the conquests he is said to have achieved among the susceptible hearts of his fair countrywomen.

The Neapolitans are, for the most part, highly accomplished. Many of them, of my acquaintance, are good musicians, and draw well; and some compose pieces of music that would not discredit a professor. The talent for versification is much and successfully cultivated amongst them; and I have read many poetical composi-

tions of theirs which, if breathing not the elevated character of genius, were gracefully and elegantly turned. Their epigrams are lively and pointed, and their satires are pungent and terse. There are many ladies in Naples, remarkable for the grace of their manners, the vivacity and piquancy of their conversation, and their rare skill in music. A *naïveté*, resembling that of children, but wholly free from *brusquerie*, or *gaucherie*, is a peculiar trait in the Neapolitan women; and, in my opinion, gives an additional charm to their society. They are reserved in their intercourse with strangers, until a lengthened acquaintance removes this constraint; when their liveliness, good nature, and sweetness of temper, never fail to endear them to those who have opportunities of knowing them. I have nowhere witnessed such a perfect freedom from vanity or coquetry, as among the women here; scandal and slander are vices unknown to them; and they consider an indulgence in them so indicative of a bad heart, that they carefully avoid those who give way to this baneful propensity. I have frequently been asked, "Why do the English people tell such ill-natured stories of each other? If founded in truth, they ought, from a patriotic feeling, to be concealed from the inhabitants of other nations; and if untrue, how dreadful to propagate them! But the English seem to relate such tales with a spiteful pleasure, rather than with regret for the crimes they disclose." Such was the observation of a Neapolitan woman, of high rank and cultivated mind, addressed to me a few days ago; and sorry was I to find, that this besetting sin of my compatriots, the love of scandal, was so well known wherever they sojourn.

Mr. Millingen, the antiquary, has taken up his abode with us for some days; and has been initiating us into the mysteries of numismatics, a very interesting science, and the study of which serves admirably to illustrate history. The number of false medals offered for sale to collectors, renders a knowledge of the ancient ones very necessary; and so accurate is Mr. Millingen's practised eye, that it can detect a counterfeit at the first glance. Some connoisseurs assert that they can discern the true from the false medal, by the taste; a criterion, in my opinion, to be avoided, as a contact with the verdigris which incrusts them, must be dangerous to the tongue. It is amusing to observe how deeply engrossed each antiquary is by his own peculiar studies: one talks of nothing but Nola vases, seeming to think that they alone are worthy of attention; another confines his observation to antique gems, and will spend hours with a magnifying-glass, examining some microscopic engraving on a precious stone; hazarding innumerable conjectures relating to the subject, and founding some fanciful hypothesis on each. Then comes the lover of mutilated sculpture, who

raves of some antique horse, as if it had acquired value by the loss of its limbs; and who admires half a Venus more than an entire one. The connoisseur of *antique bijouterie* must not be forgotten, who pays extravagant prices for golden dropsical Cupids, plump Bucchuses, and lanky Venuses of Lilliputian dimensions, and is as vain of their possession as if he owned the *chef-d'œuvre* of a Phidias or Praxiteles. Each of these antiquarians looks down with a pity, bordering on contempt, on the object of the pursuit of the others, believing his own to be the only one meriting devotion; but each, and all, deride him who, attaching himself to the virtù of the *cinque cento*, can be pleased with the fine specimens of coloured glass, the beautiful *bijouterie* of Benvenuto Cellini, or the countless other beautiful objects belonging to that epoch. This "one-sidedness" of mind, as the Germans would term it, is peculiar to those who allow themselves to be wholly engrossed by one branch of a science, instead of taking a general interest in all; and constitutes the ridicule which these enthusiasts are accused of throwing on such subjects. Mr. Millingen is one of the few antiquarians who is exempt from this defect; for he appreciates, at their just value, every object of art handed down to us from antiquity.

Dined on board our yacht, the *Bolivar*, yesterday, in the cabin, where Byron wrote much of his *Don Juan*; a poem, which all who liked him, must wish he never had written. How forcibly inanimate objects remind us of those past away for ever! The table at which he wrote, the sofa on which he reclined, and the different articles of furniture, all in the places where they stood when he owned the yacht, brought Byron back to my recollection most vividly. He was very partial to this vessel, which was built for him at Leghorn, and enjoyed a sail in it very much.

The view of Naples from the bay is beautiful. It presents an amphitheatre of houses rising one above the other, with a mixture of foliage that adds much to its picturesque effect. The coloured tiles with which many of the churches are roofed, with the minarets, seen in fine relief against the blue and cloudless sky, give the place the air of an Eastern city, while the tranquil bay, rendering the movement of the vessel scarcely perceptible, enables one to enjoy the lovely picture spread before us.

August.—Mr. Herschel, our English astronomer, dined here yesterday, and accompanied us in the evening to the observatory at Capo di Monti, where we were much delighted by the observations we were enabled to make on the heavenly bodies, and still more so by those which he offered, observations which a Neapolitan astronomer, who was present, asserted to be almost as luminous as the brilliant objects that called them forth. Mr. Herschel

is a very superior man, and, what all superior men unfortunately are not, a very agreeable one; uniting to a profound knowledge, a fine imagination, and extensive information. What greatly pleased me was his love of poetry, and general acquaintance with our best authors. His *savoir* in the science of astronomy has charmed those competent to appreciate it, both at Palermo and here, and his social qualities have won him the esteem of all who have formed his acquaintance in Italy. It is pleasant to witness Sir William Gell's delight in meeting any scientific person, from whom he can derive knowledge on any subject. Far from being content with his own acquirements, which are various, he grasps at every opportunity of adding to his store, with all the freshness of intellect of a youth of seventeen. This unquenchable thirst for knowledge preserves his mind in all its pristine freshness, and precludes the possibility of his experiencing the *tadium vitæ* to which most people of his age are subject. He was much gratified by the conversation of Mr. Herschel, and enquired with interest into the recent discoveries and improvements in the formation of astronomical instruments. Gell brought us some extremely interesting letters from his enterprising and learned friend, Mr. Wilkinson the Egyptian traveller, to whom he is much attached.

An American fleet has arrived in the bay, and we went yesterday on board to see the ship of the commodore, Crichton. Nothing could exceed the good order and cleanliness of the vessel, nor the elegance of the cabin of the commodore. The sailors are fine-looking men, and the commodore and his officers are exceedingly gentlemanly, well-informed, and intelligent. We were received with great politeness, refreshments were served in the cabin, and the band, a very good one, played several national airs. There is a library in each ship, from which the crew are supplied with books, each man giving a receipt for the book lent to him; and great is the demand for them. The collections are chiefly composed of voyages, biography, and history; and so great is the thirst for knowledge among the crew, that the volumes are seldom allowed to remain on the shelves. It was very gratifying to witness the rapid march of intellect evinced by all that we beheld on board the American ship; and prejudiced and unjust, indeed, must those be who, after seeing its details and *ensemble*, could deny that our transatlantic brethren have made a wonderful progress as a nation. A Mr. Livingstone, a passenger in the commodore's ship, is an excellent specimen of an American; being well-bred, and thoroughly well-informed.

We have made a very pleasant expedition to the Island of Caprea, where we staid three days. Messrs. Strangways, H. Bailie,

and Millingen accompanied us, and with our own inmates, made a large party. As there is no inn at Caprea, we sent our courier, a day or two before us, to arrange for our reception; which he effected, by taking three small houses, which, by white-washing, and thoroughly cleaning, were rendered very tolerable abodes. The Boliyar was freighted with provisions; and on the island we found fish that might have satisfied even the fastidious palate of a Lucullus. The views from Caprea are charming. On one side, Naples is seen with her cupolas, steeples, and minarets bounding the blue waters of the bay; and on the other, an extensive prospect of the sea is spread out, until it appears to mingle with the azure sky in the distant horizon. The beautiful coast of Sorrento, which is about three leagues distant, is beheld to peculiar advantage from Caprea; and the islands of Ischia, and Procida, form fine features in the picture. The balmy air is so strongly impregnated with the saline qualities of the sea, that the frame, rendered languid by the heat of Naples, soon becomes invigorated by the fresh and salubrious breezes of this island, which might be rendered a most delicious retreat during summer. The inhabitants of Caprea, or Capri, as it is at present called, are a good-looking healthy race, and the women are peculiarly handsome. A curious instance of the *naïveté* of some of them was furnished to us, on the first evening of our arrival. Having ascended to Ana-Capri, we seated ourselves, on the route, on a platform, commanding a fine prospect, when we saw three very beautiful women approaching; dressed, for it happened to be a fête-day, in their holiday costume, which is exceedingly rich, picturesque, and becoming. We remarked their beauty, but as our observations were made in English, they could not comprehend the praise we bestowed; and in passing, smiled, and nodded to us, with that grace peculiar to Italian women. They descended a few of the five hundred steps of the declivity that separates Ana-Capri from Capri; when they quickly returned, and running up to us, alternately clasped me in their arms, with every demonstration of affection; apologising for the liberty they had taken, by declaring that an irresistible sentiment, a "*sympatia*," urged them to its commission. Our party were exceedingly amused by this burst of natural feeling; and as the women were perfectly clean, I joined in the laugh it excited, with more mirth than I should have experienced if my embracers had been less free from symptoms of personal neglect. The ascent to Ana-Capri is very fatiguing, but the view, and fresh breezes, repay the trouble of mounting above five hundred steps. We made the circuit of the island on mules; and on the eastern promontory the site of the palace of Tiberius was pointed out to us, which was an admirable

position. We then rode to the Piscina, and explored the ruins, among which are the remains of a theatre and baths. In the latter place, we found several small fragments of rich and rare marbles; and I picked up a piece of false opal, which, except with experienced judges, might pass for the real stone. The ancients had arrived at an extraordinary degree of perfection in the imitation of gems; for I have seen several in Italy, that, until minutely examined, I believed to be genuine. They excelled, also, in the fusion of different compositions with glass, an art now nearly lost; and at Rome, specimens were shown me of great beauty. The day after our arrival at Capri, the handsome peasant women, whom we encountered on the platform at Anacapri, brought large bouquets of flowers for my acceptance; and pressed me, with a graceful warmth, to make their island my residence. Among the many inducements held out, were the health I should enjoy,—no one, as they asserted, ever being ill at Capri; the long duration of youth, and its attractions, (no trivial inducement to a woman;) and though last, not least, the empire that would be gladly accorded to one, who would suffer herself to be loved by the inhabitants. In short, they said I should be their queen; a distinction which they declared, had never before been offered to any other person—and all this homage and affection, was the effect of “*sympatia*.” In our colder country this feeling could not be understood; for, though we also experience the magnetic attraction which some countenances possess, and are as strongly repulsed by others, which nevertheless may not be positively disagreeable, yet as the usages of society prevent us from yielding to our impulses, we can hardly imagine how wholly these simple people abandon themselves to theirs. Good looks have, I believe, nothing to do in exciting this same “*sympatia*,” it is some benevolent expression of countenance that gives birth to it. The superstitious dread of an evil eye, so generally felt in Italy, originates, I imagine; in the disagreeable impression produced on this sensitive people by an ill-natured, or repulsive aspect; for I have seen the peasants turn abruptly away from a severe, or stern visage, although the features were faultless.

The ex-Empress of France, Marie-Louise, has arrived on a visit to the King of Naples. I saw her yesterday, and a less interesting-looking woman I have seldom beheld. Her face must always have been plain, for neither the features nor expression are such as constitute good looks. The first are truly Austrian; the nose rather flat, the forehead anything but intellectual, the eyes a very light blue, and of an unmeaning character, and the mouth defective. Her figure is no longer round and well-formed, as it is said to have formerly been; and there is neither elegance nor dignity in her air

or manner. She was attended by the Count de Neiperg, her avowed chamberlain; and, as most persons assert, her not avowed husband. He is a gentleman-like looking man; and though wanting an eye, his physiognomy is not disagreeable. Now that I have seen Marie-Louise, I am not surprised at her conduct on the fall of Napoleon: the weakness and indecision of her character are visible in a countenance, which might serve as an illustration to Lavater's system, so indicative is it of imbecility. Marie-Louise had a great rôle to enact in the drama of life, had she only had spirit and heart enough to have filled it. Her devotion to Napoleon in his fallen fortunes, would have been as honourable to her character as soothing to his feelings; and was the more called for, as it would have justified the subserviency and show of affection evinced towards him, while he ruled the destinies of France. How widely different has been the conduct of the Princess Catherine of Wirtemberg, towards her husband the ex-King of Westphalia, brother of Napoleon! She nobly resisted every endeavour to induce her to renounce her husband, when driven from the throne which she shared. It was her duty, she said, never to forsake him to whom she had pledged her vows at the altar; and his misfortunes only served to render this duty still more imperative. How forcibly must the contrast afforded by the conduct of these two princesses, have struck Napoleon, when pining in exile; and how must it have aggravated the bitterness of his feelings, at this unnatural desertion, when, chained on a rock, Prometheus-like, he fed on his own heart!

Last night, I witnessed one of the most beautiful scenes imaginable. It was a sort of fête offered to Marie-Louise, by the King of Naples, and took place on the water. Never was there a more propitious night for such a festival, for not a breeze ruffled the calm bosom of the beautiful bay, which resembled a vast lake, reflecting on its glassy surface the bright sky above, which was glittering with innumerable stars. Naples, with its white colonnades, seen amidst the dark foliage of its terraced gardens, rose like an amphitheatre from the sea; and the lights streaming from the buildings on the water, seemed like columns of gold. The castle of St. Elmo crowned the centre of the picture; Vesuvius, like a sleeping giant in grim repose, stood on the right, flanked by Mount St. Angelo, and the coast of Sorrento fading into distance; and on the left, the vine-crowned height of the Vomero, with its palaces and villas, glancing forth from the groves that surround them, was crowned by the Mount Camaldoli, with its convent spires pointing to the sky. A rich stream of music announced the coming of the royal pageant; and proceeded from a gilded barge, to which countless lamps were attached, giving it, when seen at a distance, the

appearance of a vast shell of topaz, floating on a sea of sapphire. It was filled with musicians, attired in the most glittering liveries; and every stroke of the oars kept time to the music, and sent forth a silvery light from the water which they rippled. This illuminated and gilded barge was followed by another, adorned by a silken canopy, from which hung curtains of the richest texture, partly drawn back to admit the balmy air. Cleopatra, when she sailed down the Cydnus, boasted not a more beautiful vessel; and as it glided over the sea, it seemed excited into motion by the music that preceded it, so perfectly did it keep time to the delicious sounds, leaving behind it a silvery track like the memory of happiness. The king himself steered the vessel; his tall and slight figure gently curved, and his snowy locks falling over ruddy cheeks, show that age has bent but not broken him. He looked simple, though he appears like one born to command; a hoary Neptune, steering over his native element: all eyes were fixed on him; but his, steadily followed the glittering barge that preceded him. Marie-Louise was the only person in the king's boat; she was richly dressed, and seemed pleased with the pageant. Innumerable vessels, filled with the lords and ladies of the court followed, but intruded not on the privacy of the regal bark, which glided before us like some gay vision or dream.

Yesterday, we went on board the *Revenge*, commanded by Admiral Sir Harry Neale. It is a magnificent ship; and the admiral is the very *beau idéal* of a British flag-officer. Handsome, dignified and amiable, no wonder that he is so beloved by his crew, and so respected and esteemed by all who know him. I could have fancied myself back in dear Old England again, while on board the *Revenge*; English faces around me on every side, and English voices ringing in my ears. How the charm of such associations are felt, when one has been long away from home! There is something to be proud of, when one sees the moving English town, floating on a foreign sea, preserving all her national customs and usages as strictly as though she were anchored in some English port; the glorious flag of her country flying in the air, and her denizens actively employed in preserving that good order which has placed the British navy above all others. I experienced this feeling, mingled with tenderness, when going over this magnificent ship: it was like finding the temple of our Di Penates on the ocean.

Commodore Crichton, and four or five of his officers, dined with us yesterday; they are sensible and agreeable men: one, a Captain Deacon, has his son on board, a very fine and interesting child, eight or ten years of age. It was pleasant to see the kindness and gentleness displayed towards this boy, by the messmates of his

father; it was almost feminine; but there is, I think, a peculiar benevolence in the breasts of sailors, that disposes them to protect the less strong. There is a great gravity in these American seamen, yet it is wholly distinct from dullness, and seems to be the fruit of reflection: it sits well on them,—better, in my opinion, than gaiety would; for, to men passing the principal portion of their lives exposed to the treacherous element over which they float, seriousness seems but natural. It was gratifying to me to hear the regret expressed by the Americans for Byron; he would have been pleased at this homage, rendered to him by the individuals of a nation he respected; for he was keenly sensible to kindness, and had experienced too little of it from his compatriots, not to appreciate it from others.

Among the officers of the *Revenge*, Lord B. has recognised the son of an old friend, General Wemyss. He has come to stay a few days with us, and is so amiable and well-informed, that he is a great acquisition to our circle. He is daily expecting his promotion of master and commander, and will be greatly regretted when he leaves the *Revenge*. I know not why it is, that people imagine that naval officers are in general rough in their manner, and more jovial than well-bred. No opinion can be more erroneous; for, out of an extensive acquaintance, I never met a naval officer that was not well-bred and agreeable. Mr. Wemyss, who has been at sea since he was ten years old, possesses all the high breeding and gentleness, that people think appertain peculiarly to those accustomed to pass the greater portion of their time in the most refined female society. He draws remarkably well, is fond of music, and has an extensive knowledge of literature; and is nevertheless, I am told, considered one of the best officers in the service; a proof that nautical skill is not incompatible with accomplishments and refinement.

I have become so accustomed to see my kind and excellent friends, Sirs Wm. Drummond and Gell, continually, that the loss of their society will be felt a severe privation, whenever I sustain it. Drummond's is one of the most highly cultivated minds imaginable; and his conversation teems with instruction, so happily conveyed, as to impress itself deeply on the memory. I count it one of the greatest advantages of my *sejour* at Naples, to have enjoyed so much of the society of this remarkable man; and to have inspired him with a friendship that will, I feel certain, continue while we live. I value this amity, perhaps the more, that it is bestowed but on a chosen few; while that of the good-natured Gell is accorded to all who seek it. An Italian lady said of Gell that his heart, like their churches, was open to all who chose to enter; but that Drummond's, like Paradise, was difficult to be

entered, consequently one was sure to meet there but a select company.

England could not have sent out a minister to Naples, more calculated to impress its natives with a favourable opinion of the English, than Mr. Hamilton. To rare erudition, he unites a fine taste and agreeable manners; and is universally esteemed and respected. His skill, as a virtuoso, is worthy of being classed with that of his distinguished countryman, and, I believe, relative, Sir William Hamilton, so long minister here.

We have spent four or five days very agreeably at the island of Ischia; Mr. J. Strangways accompanied us there. It is a delightful spot, and the homeliness of its accommodations is not without its charms. We stopped to see the beautiful island of Nisida, which looks as if formed for the residence of fairies, so fresh and bright is its verdure, and so picturesque, yet *petit*, i. its *ensemble*. While at Ischia, we ascended the Monte di Vico, and Monte d'Epopeo, which command the most enchanting views imaginable. A hermit resides in a cave at the summit of the latter; and did the honour's of his rude dwelling with much urbanity and intelligence. The ascent is exceedingly abrupt; and the latter part of it we were compelled to accomplish on foot, leaving our mules behind us. From the hermitage, the island is looked down on, with its vines and figs, presenting a mass of brilliant verdure, only broken by the stone terraces that crown nearly all the flat-roofed houses; many of them surrounded with rustic trellis-work, overgrown by flowering plants, or vines. The blue and sparkling sea is spread out as if to serve as a mirror to the azure sky that canopies it; and the white sails that float on it, resemble swans gliding over some vast and tranquil lake. The hermit seemed gratified with our lively admiration of the prospect from his dwelling; and assured us, that use had not palled the pleasure it afforded him. "I know not whether it appears more lovely," said he, "when sparkling in the bright beams of the morning; or when the sun sinks into the sea, casting its red light over the scene." On returning, our guide led us by a still more abrupt path than the one by which we had ascended; and the mode by which the muleteers got their mules down some of the worst parts of the route, surprised me. A few of them went below, while others forced the animal head foremost to the edge of the summit of the steep; and, holding it by the tail, to prevent it from falling, let it gradually descend, until the men beneath, who had clambered up a portion of the ascent to encounter it, were enabled to grasp it, and assist it to the bottom. The loud neighing of the mules, and the cries, exclamations, and curses of the muleteers, formed a chorus by no means harmonious; and when the feat was accomplished, the laughter in which the

men indulged, as they imitated the kicking and neighing of the mules, was irresistibly comic.

The lower class of Italians in general, and the Neapolitans in particular, have a decided taste and talent for buffoonery, which breaks forth on every occasion. Innumerable examples of this propensity may be witnessed, on pausing to observe any group assembled on the quay, or in the streets. I have frequently been amused by seeing the drollery with which some of the *lazzaroni* mimic each other, when I have been waiting for our boat on the Mola; they cannot repeat a story without giving an imitation of the persons engaged in it; and this is done in so comic a way, that few actors could do it better.

During our *séjour* at Ischia, we were much gratified by the music heard nightly in the little hamlets, as we returned from our evening rides; groups of three and four persons, with guitars, were seen seated on a terrace, or on a bench before their houses, singing Neapolitan airs, and *barcaroles*, in a style that would not have offended the ears of Rossini himself; while, in another quarter might be found a party dancing the merry *tarantella*, to the sound of a guitar and tambourine, to which their voices, as well as their feet, kept perfect measure. Rarely did we pass two hundred yards without meeting such groups; and when we paused to listen to their songs, or see the dancing, they invariably offered us seats, and then continued, without any embarrassment. The *fête-dress* of the female inhabitants of Ischia is very picturesque and becoming, and totally unlike that of the Neapolitan women; the men wear scarlet caps, of the Phrygian shape, and are a fine-looking and hardy race. The females are much handsomer than those of Naples; and have very expressive countenances, and gentle manners. The mud, sand, and mineral baths at Ischia are considered very beneficial in rheumatic and cutaneous diseases, and are much frequented.

On our return, we stopped to see the island of Procida, which, though much inferior to Ischia, is well worthy of being visited. Here wine, bread, grapes, and figs, of the most delicious quality, were offered to us by the women; and one or two of the houses which we entered, though homely to the last degree, were so clean, that the fruit presented to us in them might be eaten without the smallest apprehension or dread.

When passing beneath the Promontory of Misenum, we saw several flights of the flying-fish. They were small, with very bright hues, which shone radiantly, as they rose dripping from the surface of the sea, and soared to a short distance, not ascending higher than five or six feet, and then sinking into the water again. It was a very beautiful sight, and but rarely seen here.

A peculiar charm of Naples is the variety of delightful places in

its environs ; whither, when tired of the town, its inhabitants can repair and totally change the scene. Sorrento, whence we are but just returned, is, in my opinion, one of the most pleasant spots for a summer residence that I ever saw ; and whether approached by land or water, offers the most striking and attractive scene imaginable. The view from the Promontory of Sorrento is magnificent ; and the ruins scattered through the place give it additional attractions. But those fragments of antiquity, interesting as they are, had less charms for me than the spot where the gifted, but unhappy poet, Tasso, first saw the light. How much may the beautiful scenery at Sorrento, amid which he passed the first nine years of his life, have influenced his mind ! powerful and indelible as early impressions are known to be on all minds, but doubly so on poetical ones. We saw the house in which his sister resided ; and to which the ill-fated Torquato returned for consolation, when, the victim of an unhappy passion, he fled from Ferrara, where his genius and misfortunes excited only enmity and persecution. How much misery might he have escaped had he remained with his faithful friend and sister, but unable to bear a prolonged absence from the object of his passion, he returned to Ferrara ; and expiated, by a long and cruel confinement in the dreary cell to which he was condemned, the misplaced attachment which he had indulged. The plain of Sorrento is divided into gardens, in which bloom the orange, pomegranate, aloe, and other trees, with various odoriferous plants, which grow with a luxuriance I never previously saw equalled. The peaches, figs, and grapes, are abundant and of a delicious flavour ; and flowers that in our chilly latitudes are only to be seen in hot-houses, may here be encountered in the gardens of every peasant. Sorrento, viewed from any of the hills that overlook it, seems one mass of orange and lemon trees, with their golden fruit and snowy flowers glittering beneath the sunbeams ; while the lofty stone-pine, cedar, oak, and cypress, lift their heads far above them, as if to guard the rich and glowing fruit. The town of Sorrento is very picturesque. Above it, and between the houses, is the richest and brightest foliage, while its walls are bathed by a sea, blue as the sky that overhangs it. Fishermen, with their scarlet Phrygian caps, are seen conveying baskets laden with fish of the most brilliant colours ; and peasants, in their fanciful costumes, are passing along bearing piles of the most tempting fruit, crowned with bouquets of odour-breathing flowers. This mixture of the fruits and flowers of earth, and the productions of the sea, brought in contact for sale, has an admirable appearance ; and the mingled group of fishermen and peasants, with the surrounding scenery, would make a charming picture.

On the route to Meta, the site of a temple, said to have been dedicated to Venus, was pointed out to us; near to which are two myrtle trees of such immense dimensions, that at first sight we could hardly believe them to be of the same species with the stunted myrtles of our own country. The village of Meta has a handsome church, and some of the finest olive-trees I ever saw. There is no inn at Sorrento, but excellent lodging-houses on reasonable terms may be had. An epicure will find there an abundant supply of viands of the best quality, and the poultry and veal are worthy of their reputation, being exquisitely white and delicate in their flavour. The caverns along the shore, in many of which boats are moored, and groups of fishermen may be seen reclining, look very picturesque from the sea; and are said to have furnished the models of many of the pictures of Salvator Rosa. Taken altogether, Sorrento, in my opinion, offers the most delightful residence of any place in the environs of Naples; and to those who like retirement and beautiful scenery, is preferable to it.

October.—Now that the equinoctial winds have reminded us how much our beautiful residence, the Belvedere, stands in need of solid reparation for the winter, we find ourselves compelled to remove to the less fine, but infinitely more comfortable abode, the Villa Gallo, at Capo di Monte. It is with great regret, too, that we abandon this fine palace; but it is much more suited to a summer than to a winter residence. The gardens of the Villa Gallo are beautiful beyond description; but the rooms are neither sufficiently large, nor lofty, for my taste, especially after having so long occupied the fine apartments of the Belvedere. In three days we remove to our new abode, to the great regret of the good peasants who inhabit the lower part of Belvedere, and who have become as much attached to us as if we had passed all our lives under the same roof. A more affectionate and grateful race than the Neapolitans cannot be found; and judging by my own experience, a more honest one. We have now dwelt a considerable time amongst them, and have never lost the slightest article, notwithstanding that many things of value have been left exposed in the different apartments.

VILLA GALLO, November.—We are now installed in our new residence, and a beautiful one it is; yet I regret the Belvedere. The royal family of Naples are, it would seem, less fastidious in their notions of comfort than we are; for I have just heard that they have taken it for two or three months in despite of its windows shaking at every breeze, and its unlined pale blue silk curtains waving at every gust. The air of the Vomero is considered so salutary, that the Prince of Salerno, heir-apparent to the Neapolitan throne, who is in delicate health, has been induced to try it

efficacy in preference to any of the royal palaces in the vicinity of Naples. Several English have arrived for the winter. Among them are our last year's acquaintance, Mr. Henry Baillie, a very agreeable acquisition to our society, and the two Captains Dundas, sons of Lord Melville. The two latter dined here to-day. The *Cambrian*, commanded by Commodore Hamilton, has arrived at Naples. He is an old friend of Lord B.'s, and came to dine with us yesterday. There is something peculiarly agreeable in a well-bred sailor, and nearly all that I know are so. How unlike the bluff, rude animals, half man, and half sea-monster, that we read of in some of the old novels, taking tobacco into the mouth, and pouring oaths out of it! The suavity of a naval officer possesses that gentleness which peculiarly appertains to a more than ordinary degree of manliness, and is, therefore, always acceptable and agreeable to women. Commodore Hamilton looks the personification of a Neptune. His stature is above the general height; he is robust and powerful, without losing any portion of its dignity and grace. His manner is that of a person accustomed to command, yet, though grave and dignified, it is full of benevolence. I can well imagine how much such a man might be missed from his home and hearth, and how anxiously his return must be looked for in his domestic circle. He referred to his family with a sigh, and said he had no hope of seeing them for a long time to come. What sacrifices men make for their country, when they leave those so dear to them, for an indefinite period, to encounter hardships and perils of which we, enjoying all the comforts and security of land, can form but a slight idea.

More English have arrived at Naples; and among them are Mr. Henry Fox, the son of Lord Holland, and Mr. J. Townshend, the son of Lord Sydney. (1) They dined here yesterday. Mr. H. Fox possesses the talent for society in an eminent degree. He is lively, intelligent, and *très-spirituel*; seizes the points of ridicule in all whom he encounters, at a glance; and draws them out with a tact that is very amusing to the lookers-on. Mr. J. Townshend is amiable, well-bred, and agreeable, perfectly free from vanity, though with much that might excuse, if not justify such a weakness, being very good-looking.

The *Sybil*, Captain Pechel, has arrived at Naples, and he came to dine with us yesterday, bringing with him a fine youth, the son of Lord Carlisle; and young Tollemache, a relative of Lord B.'s, both of whom are midshipmen on board his ship. We have obtained permission for them to spend a few days with us, and they seem greatly to enjoy their visit. Captain Pechel is very agreeable; full of good sense, and knowledge of the world. He

(1) The present Lord Sydney.

has lost no occasion of gaining information; and its acquirement has not been obtained at the expense of any portion of the goodness, and kindness of heart, for which he is so remarkable, and for which he is so much esteemed by all his friends.

We have now been so long residents here, that we have formed not only intimacies with many, but friendships with some, of the Neapolitans. The family of the Count de Camaldoli is that to which we feel the most attached; and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to encounter persons more highly gifted, and amiable, than the different members of it. They are, and deservedly, considered the most distinguished at Naples; for their mental endowments, high cultivation, and well-known benevolence. Possessed of a large fortune, the Count de Camaldoli makes a noble use of it; for, independent of exercising a liberal and refined hospitality, he is the generous and enlightened patron of arts and science; and at his delightful abode, may always be met the most distinguished poets, painters, sculptors, and architects, as well as the most remarkable statesmen, and Neapolitan nobility. Strangers may well consider themselves fortunate, who can obtain an introduction to this charming family; in whose domestic circle, the constant practice of every virtue is united with a love and knowledge of the fine arts, rarely acquired, except by artists. The Count de Camaldoli is looked on as the man in Naples the best calculated to be prime minister; but those who witness the happiness he diffuses, and enjoys, in his home, can never wish, however advantageous it might be to his country, to see him exchange the tranquil, useful, and honourable life he now leads, for the more brilliant, but less happy career for which he is considered to be so well qualified. The Countess Camaldoli is beloved by all who know her; and scarcely less than adored, by her husband and children, over whose happiness she watches like a presiding deity. The two daughters of this excellent couple, are perfect musicians; and sing in a style rarely attained by musical amateurs. They draw, and paint admirably; one of them is esteemed a first-rate mathematician, and the other a good poet. Their conversation is full of general information; so unostentatiously and agreeably conveyed, that they never can be suspected of pedantry. The two sons are what might be expected, from such parents. The elder, an admirable scholar, is full of good sense, and will one day emulate the fine qualities of his father: the second, is a youth of rare genius, already the author of poems, that give the promise of no common success, when a few more years are added to his age; for he is now not more than fifteen or sixteen. Never have I witnessed, even in dear England, such devoted affection in any domestic circle, as in that of the Count de Camaldoli. For with us

though the daughters of a family may be as fondly attached as are these amiable girls to their parents; the sons, from having received a public education, are apt to lose that devotion to home and its inmates, which characterise the young Ricciardis; who, brought up beneath the paternal roof, have never been separated from their family. Well might the venerable archbishop of Tarantum pronounce the Ricciardis to be the model which all Italians ought to copy; and the family which he would select, as being most calculated to convey to strangers the best impression of the Neapolitan domestic character.

General Church dined with us yesterday; he is full of military ardour, and has studied his profession *con amore*. He has introduced General Florestan Pepe to us, who is clever, intelligent, and agreeable. Filangeri, Prince Satriani, is one of the most distinguished men in Italy, not only as a soldier, but as a scholar. We made his acquaintance at the house of the good Camaldoli, and consider his society to be one of the most desirable acquisitions we have made since our arrival here. Nothing can be more delightful than the evenings passed with those with whom we are the most intimate here. Music of the very best kind, and conversation stored with information and interest, fill up the hours; while the total absence of ceremony and constraint, impart to even an extensive circle, all the freedom and charm of a family one.

The *Duc* and *Duchesse* de — dined with us yesterday. He was, formerly, ambassador from Naples at Paris, and was at Campo Formio when Napoleon displayed so much ill-humour, relative to the treaty. He abounds in diplomatic anecdote, which he loves to relate. The *Duchesse* is lively, good-natured, and good-looking; she is a descendant of the ancient and noble Roman family of Colonna, of whom, however, I discovered in a conversation with her, she knows much less than I do. She seemed surprised when I talked of the intimacy of Petrarch with her ancestor Stephen; and still more so, when I named her charming relative Vittoria Colonna, the wife of the celebrated Duc del Vasto, and the friend of Michael Angelo; nor had she ever heard of her beautiful sonnets, until I spoke of them. She smiled at hearing that she had a poetess among her ancestors; when the *Duc* explained that the early marriage of the *Duchesse*; the care of her large family, and her love of music, prevented her knowing as much of past times as could be wished; to which assertion she assented with a charming *naïveté*. Accomplishments are in general more attended to in Italy, in the education of women, than is literary instruction. Most of them can charm the ear by their fine, and well-taught music, and can exhibit masterly sketches in their portfolios; but it is not often that highly cultivated minds, capable of affording delight in

conversation, can be found. When they are met, however, as in the case of the ladies of the Ricciardi family, and some others, it must be admitted, that in versatility of acquirements, the women of no other country can be more admirably educated, or more formed to make rational and agreeable companions.

All the inhabitants of Naples are in a state of excitement, caused by the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt; which shocking event occurred close to Pæstum, on their return from that place. Murder, or indeed robberies, have been so unfrequent during the last few years, that this one has surprised, nearly as much as it has shocked, the Neapolitans. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were both in the bloom of youth: newly married, they had set out for Italy immediately after their nuptials; little anticipating that in the beautiful land which they eagerly journeyed to see, they should so soon encounter a premature and violent death. I met them at Naples but three days previously to the fatal event: and was so struck with the beauty of this ill-fated young woman that I enquired her name; now that I hear it coupled with a horrible death, I can hardly bring myself to think that one I so lately saw full of life and health, is indeed her whose murder is the topic of every one I meet. The youth, personal attractions, and fond attachment of this young couple, have awakened a lively interest and regret in the minds of all who are acquainted with the sad tale of their deaths. They were on their return from Pæstum, attended only by a man-servant, who was on the box of their *calèche*, when three or four armed brigands stopped the carriage, and menaced them with death, unless they immediately delivered their money and baggage. Mr. Hunt, a fine, spirited young man, was more disposed to offer resistance, than to comply with this demand; but Mrs. Hunt, greatly alarmed, entreated him to give them the bag of dollars which was in the carriage, beneath their feet. His servant remonstrated with the brigands; who, incensed at his interference, violently struck him. Mr. Hunt stooped down, whether to seize the bag of dollars, or fire-arms, is not known; the brigands thought the latter was his intention, and they instantly fired at him. Mrs. Hunt, seeing a robber take aim at her husband, threw herself between them, clasping him in her arms, and received two balls, which passed from her person to his, mortally wounding both. The brigands fled with their booty; and some peasants hearing the shot came to the spot, and found the young couple nearly insensible, and weltering in their blood. They removed the husband into the next hut on the road, where he soon expired; and took Mrs. Hunt back to the wretched abode at Pæstum, which she had so lately quitted in the enjoyment of as much happiness as falls to the lot of mortals. The melancholy intelligence soon

spread, and next day reached the residence of the worthy Miss White, an English maiden lady, of advanced years, who inhabits a house at La Cava, and she soon set out on horseback, to offer her services to her unhappy countrywoman. In the meanwhile, two young officers of the *Revenge*, who had gone to see Pæstum, arrived there within a short time of the fatal catastrophe, and undertook the care of Mrs. Hunt; on whom they waited with all the tenderness and delicacy that could have been expected from the gentlest of her own sex. She, poor soul! kept enquiring continually for her husband, who she was told was doing well, in a house at a short distance, but whence it would be dangerous to remove him: she then entreated to be taken to him, making light of her own wound, which was so soon to consign her to the grave. She appeared to have no sense of her own danger; and preserved a degree of cheerfulness to the last, reverting to her distant home, and those dear relatives she was never more to behold; who would, as she asserted, be so grateful to her two kind young countrymen, who nursed her as though she were their sister. The wound produced fever and delirium, during the paroxysms of which, she raved of her husband; congratulated herself on having saved him at the expense of her own danger; addressed the most affectionate expressions to the far distant relatives, whom she believed to be close by her bed; and sang snatches of songs in a voice so harmonious, that those who heard it could hardly bring themselves to think, that it would soon be hushed for ever. She died the evening of the next day, unconscious of all that had occurred; and Miss White arrived only to see the corse of her she would have so tenderly succoured.

The first news I heard on awaking this morning, was the decease of the King of Naples. He was found dead in his bed, by his attendants, without having suffered any previous illness; having been in perfect health last night when he retired to that chamber which he was never more to leave, but as a corpse. His death appears to have occurred while he slept; for all about him indicated that no struggle had taken place. He is much regretted, for if not a sovereign of superior mental acquirements, he was assuredly a good-natured man. I was reminded of the sentiments of the same class of individuals in Ireland, to-day, when I walked in the pleasure grounds, and heard the peasants comment on this event, in something like the following terms:—"Ah! Signora, how hard it is to be compelled to die, when one possessed all that could render life desirable. *Corpo di Bacco!* it is a sad affair. Now, for one of us, who only know a life of labour and privation, it is a different thing; but for a king to be forced to leave behind him all that can delight the heart of man! Yes, it is a hard thing." I saw the deceased Sovereign,

only two days ago, looking healthy and vigorous; and now—another sits in his place. His successor, and the Royal Family, have come to the palace at Capo di Monte, close to this place; and the route is filled by the carriages of the ministers of State, officers of the palace, and courtiers hurrying to worship the new king, and totally oblivious of the departed one.

Various are the reports in circulation, relative to the probable changes in the administration. The liberal party, anticipating that they will be called to hold office; and the other party calculating, and, I think, with more likelihood of their expectations being fulfilled, that they will continue in power. Innumerable are the virtues, hitherto unsuspected, but now attributed to the present king, and the errors discovered in the late. It would seem that in new sovereigns, like brides, their good qualities are lauded, and their defects overlooked; for during a long residence at Naples, I never heard so many anecdotes in favour of Francesco, as in the last two days. How long will it be before a reaction takes place, and people begin to find, that after all the good old king was an excellent monarch? For thus it ever is; sovereigns, like other public characters, seldom preserve their popularity long; for they cannot satisfy the unreasonable expectations of all parties.

The Count de Camaldoli came to dine with us yesterday. No sooner was it discovered that he had been seen on the road to Capo di Monte, than a rumour was circulated that he had been sent for by the king: and as he staid with us until twelve o'clock at night, it was asserted that they had been closeted until a late hour. On the faith of this report, half Naples believes that he will be the new premier; while he is, perhaps, the only person who neither expects nor desires the office: for he is too wise to wish to forego the happiness he at present enjoys in his domestic life, and its peaceful occupations, for the laborious, though by so many coveted, dignity of first minister. It not unfrequently occurs, as in the case of this excellent man, that those who are the most fitted to fill situations of high responsibility, are precisely those who least desire them: while men, destitute of the qualities indispensable for holding office, ardently aspire to attain, and pertinaciously cling, to its possession, in defiance of the reproaches inflicted by conscience and public opinion. The family of the Count Camaldoli would deplore any advancement, however flattering, that robbed them of any portion of the society of their good father.

General Church, who dined here yesterday, proposed to conduct me to see the remains of the late king, lying in state in the Palace at Naples; and I this day availed myself of his offer. What a changed aspect did the palace present, since I had seen it last, though but a few days before! The staircase, and suite of rooms

leading to the chamber of death, were hung with black, and lighted with funeral torches. Mutes and soldiers, with their arms covered with black crape, paced silently along; and all the persons attached to the palace were clothed in deep mourning. In the middle of a large and lofty chamber, lined with black velvet, spotted with silver tears, a high platform, covered with the same material, trimmed with deep silver lace and bullion fringe, was erected. On it a catafalque, surmounted by a royal crown, was placed, composed of cloth of gold and silver, and having at the four corners large plumes of feathers. On this catafalque reposed the mortal remains of the deceased king, the head elevated on a pillow, covered with cloth of gold and silver, and the face exposed. Officers of state sat at each corner of the platform; an innumerable quantity of waxen serges of huge dimensions, in silver stands, were distributed around; and large candelabra and sconces of silver, were placed against the walls. Not a sound broke the silence of the place; the floors of the apartments being covered with black carpets, of so thick a substance that no step could be heard. There lay the face I had so lately seen in health; the white locks I had often marked floating over the ruddy cheeks, now pale and marble-like. The hand, thus motionless, a few hours ago swayed a sceptre; and at this moment it cannot chase away the insolent fly that has settled on that pallid cheek! Death, at all times a most solemn and imposing sight, never appeared to me invested with more solemnity than to-day, when I saw it surrounded with all the insignia of worldly power and grandeur, over which it waved its triumphal but sombre banner. I thought of the evening, only a few months ago, when I beheld him, who, now lay so cold and immovable on the splendid catafalque before me, steering his gilded bark over the waters, "the observed of all observers." His nod was then as a law, and on his fiat, life or death depended; yet is he now humbled to the dust, the very grandeur of the trophies that surround his earthly remains seeming but as a mockery, when contrasted with the ghastly spectacle which they are meant to honour and to dignify! And his successor will put on the crown, and dwell in the stately and gilded palaces, in which that poor pale shadow of departed greatness lived; and will feast, and rejoice, and influence, as he did, the destiny of hundreds. Yet can he not avert his own! for a greater, a sterner Monarch, will in turn summon him away; and those who now tremble at his power, will flock to view his inanimate form, wondering how a creature frail as themselves, should have filled their breasts with such fear and awe; forgetful that to his successors they will again transfer similar homage and idolatry. The silver tears on the han gings, were the only ones I witnessed in the cham-

ber of death; and it struck me that they were a happy invention for such occasions. As dead kings are rarely wept for, their disappointed subjects (and how many of them, even under the sway of the best sovereigns are to be found!) look to his successor for the fulfilment of their frustrated expectations, which the new one, in his turn, is probably destined to equally disappoint. To be flattered in life, and unmourned in death, seems to be the fate of monarchs, whatever may be their merits; and yet they are the envied of earth, by those, who looking but to the surface of things, see only power, grandeur, and wealth, and behold not the cares beneath.

A curious incident lately occurred in our immediate neighbourhood. A gentleman who has a villa near this, dreamt that a certain number would be a prize in the lottery. The morning after his dream, which was only a week previous to the drawing of the lottery, he wrote a note to his clerk to desire him to buy the ticket immediately: and subsequently told many of his neighbours and acquaintances of his dream, the number, and of his purchase of the ticket. Being a very popular person, all who heard of the circumstance were anxious that his dream should be realised; and, to their great satisfaction, the number was drawn a very large prize. Forthwith, a numerous party of artisans and peasants, employed by the gentleman in question, sallied forth from Naples, with musical instruments, colours flying, and a banner gaily decorated; on which the lucky number was inscribed, and also the amount of the prize. In this manner they proceeded to the habitation of Mr. —, and announced the joyful intelligence, which, it is needless to say, spread a general hilarity through the house. This procession was followed by several friends and acquaintances, who came to congratulate the fortunate owner of the prize. Refreshments in abundance were served out on the lawn for the peasants and artisans; and a collation in the *salle-d-manger* was offered to the friends. Sufficient wine of an inferior quality not being in the cellar, the best was copiously supplied, in the generosity occasioned by the good fortune of the host. The health of the winner of the prize was repeatedly drunk; and many suggestions relative to the disposal of a portion of the newly acquired wealth were given. The news spread, and the pleasure grounds of Mr. — became literally filled with visitors of all classes; when, in the midst of the general rejoicings, the clerk, who had been a week before deputed to purchase the ticket arrived, with a visage so rueful and woe-begone, that one glance at it announced some disagreeable news. Alas! this unlucky wight had, in the pressure of more than ordinary business, forgotten to buy the ticket! and thought not of it until informed of its having been drawn a prize. The rage and disap-

pointment of Mr. — may be more easily imagined than described, when he saw the wheel of fortune, which had paused at his door, driven to that of another ; who, having heard of the dream of Mr. —, selected the number and became the buyer of the ticket only the day before it was drawn. The refreshments so liberally dispensed on this occasion had quite exhausted the larder of the dreamer, and nearly emptied his cellar : and thus ended the affair of the lottery.

Never were people so addicted to this species of gambling as are the Neapolitans. All classes indulge in it, more or less, but the lower ones give way to it with an extraordinary recklessness. Every dream, encounter, incident, or accident, has its own particular sign and number, which may be found in a book published for the instruction of the buyers of tickets, and of which every house has a copy. The death of a friend, however lamented, refers to a particular number, which the mourner forgets not to secure, if it comes in conjunction with some fortunate sign : thus even out of misfortunes and afflictions the Neapolitans seek to draw some recompense. Nor does frequent disappointment seem to correct their eagerness for the lottery. They always discover some satisfactory reason for having missed the prize ; and hope to be more fortunate next time.

May.—Went yesterday to see the Lunatic Asylum at Aversa. This town, which is of considerable extent, owes its construction to the Normans, and occupies the site of the ancient Atella ; so celebrated for those farces, which are said to have been the prototypes of that species of amusement in Italy, for which the people have not even yet lost the taste. Strange metamorphosis, from a theatre of unlicensed merriment, to a mad-house ! Aversa seems destined to be ever the scene where unbridled passions assert their wild empire. It was near to it, that the unfortunate Andrew, the husband of Queen Joan the first, of Naples, lost his life, in a manner that furnished presumptive evidence that if not chargeable with, she was at least, implicated in the crime. When the reputation attached of old to this place is reflected on, it may be a question for casuists to decide, whether the Oscan inhabitants of the ancient Atella, or the prisoners of the modern Aversa, were the more insane. One thing is certain, which is, that the present occupants of the place are under better government than the former, and that their folly can injure none : and this is something gained. The attention paid to the comfort of the insane in this establishment, extends not only to their persons, but to their minds ; and many are the satisfactory results with which this rational and merciful treatment have been attended. The opulent, when afflicted with the dread malady of loss of reason, can here find

the most skilful care and judicious attention to their wants, for which a moderate yearly sum is paid, while they continue in the asylum; and the poor are received gratis. The first named class occupy chambers, fitted up with the same attention to their comfort as if they were in their own homes. Hot and cold baths, an extensive library, a theatre, a concert-room, an apartment appropriated to astronomical instruments, and another to experiments in electricity, galvanism, and chemistry, are comprised within the building. In short, the establishment resembles one of those arranged for the reception of inmates of cultivated minds, and refined habits; and such, many of the pensioners at Aversa have become, who entered it in a state of violent mental aberration, that gave little hope of their recovery. So anxious are the superintendents of the *Maison de Santé* to avoid wounding the feelings of their patients, that to banish even the semblance of confinement, the iron bars that secure the windows are constructed in the form of vases filled with flowers, painted on the interior and exterior, of the bright colours of the productions of which they are made in imitation. Those who are not violent, are permitted to take their repasts together; and a strict attention, not only to cleanliness, but even to elegance of the toilette, is enjoined. Comedies are performed twice a-week, and of concerts an equal number. Balls are permitted whenever a desire for dancing is manifested; and the patients are allowed to devote their mornings to any occupations most congenial to their tastes, idleness being prohibited. Tragedies are considered too exciting; but comedies are supposed to have a salutary effect on the minds of the inmates. The performers are the patients, as are also the musicians of the concerts; and I have been told by those who have witnessed the performance, that it is so good as to defy the possibility of suspecting that the actors are deranged. Of the concerts, I can speak from my own knowledge, for we were permitted to be present at one, composed of various pieces, all of which were admirably played. Many of the individuals, who entered the establishment without any knowledge of music, have subsequently evinced such a predilection for it, that when facilities for acquiring it have been afforded them, they have seldom failed in becoming skilful performers. Of this fact, several examples were given to us. The soothing effect of music on the mind, has been found advantageous in the treatment of the patients; and a desire to acquire the accomplishment is considered a favourable symptom. In the library, we found several persons occupied in reading; and more than one employed in making notes. So grave, and collected, was the aspect of each, that no observer could have imagined that their intellectual faculties had ever been deranged; much less, that they were then

under the influence of insanity. On passing near the reading-desk of one, my eye glanced over the work he was perusing, and I discovered it to be a folio volume of the works of Calvin. The reader was so engrossed by his study, that it was only when we approached close to him that he became conscious of our presence. He instantly rose, took off his velvet cap, bowed politely, and smiling, made a pleasant allusion to the work he had been reading, by pointing to his head, which was very bald; thereby indicating a quibble on the word Calvin. Nothing could be more rational than his conversation, or more well-bred than his whole demeanour, until the sound of brisk music, from an adjoining chamber, struck on his ear; when forgetting Calvin, and us, he sprang into the air with an *entrechat*, and left the room in a *pas de Zéphyr*. This gentleman is a marquis, of ancient descent and large fortune. Another of the inmates of Aversa, a Neapolitan officer of most gentlemanly appearance, accompanied his guitar, in a voice of exceeding harmony. Deprived of reason by an unrequited passion, he was absorbed in a deep melancholy; and passed many hours of every day in singing melodies of his own composition, expressive of his unhappiness. There was much pathos in his tones, and the air he sang was very plaintive. He seemed totally unconscious of our presence, and sang for some time *con amore*; but at length his voice died away, until it became like a whisper, and the lips continued to move though their sounds no longer reached us.

Having examined the portion of the establishment assigned to the upper class, we were conducted to that appropriated to the lower; and here, a different scene awaited us. All was hilarity or grief, the indications of both sentiments being boisterously displayed. Many of the patients crowded round us, requesting snuff, or coffee. Not a few questioned us with an air of anxiety, that saddened one to observe, whether we brought them intelligence from home: while others entrusted us to take charge of letters to their friends to apprise them of the ill-usage to which they were subjected. "How can you tell such falsehoods!" said a man among the crowd; "you know, or ought to know, that you are as mad as was Alexander the Great, when he struck Clytus. Yes, you are raving mad, and ought to be chained in darkness; for it is too horrid that I, and some others here, who possess reason, should be compelled to herd with maniacs, and listen to their incoherent fancies, while such as you are allowed freedom." This remark called forth an angry rejoinder; and a rising quarrel was only prevented by the rebuke of the superintendent, from whose stern glance both of the maniacs turned away. Another madman declared himself to be Charles Stuart, King of England, and offered us his hand to

kiss, with an assumption of regal dignity which called forth a shout of laughter from the crowd. "Bravo, bravissimo!" cried one amongst them; "only hear the idiot endeavouring to impose on the strangers, by passing himself off as their king." "Silence, rabble," exclaimed the *soi-disant* Charles Stuart; "and you," looking indignantly at the last speaker, "poor, contemptible reptile, who announce yourself as Sovereign of the West." "Of the East, and not the West," interrupted the other; "but you know not the difference between the two, nor what you say."

The "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness," so prevalent in the world, and exerting such a baleful influence over those not accounted mad, seemed to flourish here as much as in society; each individual endeavouring to depreciate, or turn into ridicule his neighbour, and to elevate himself. These evil propensities, which appear to be innate in men, even while endowed with reason, are only more openly displayed when deprived of its guidance; a guidance which, alas! more frequently teaches their concealment, than their correction or eradication. I turned away saddened from this too similar, but exaggerated representation of the vices of society, to pause at the open cell of a priest, who was prostrate before a wooden cross of his own manufacture. The crown of his head was shorn, but long locks of snowy hue fell from the sides of it, and mingled with his beard of the same venerable colour, which reached to the cord that confined his robe round the waist. His face was pale as death, and his eyes, which were raised to the cross, were filled with tears, which chased each other down his attenuated cheeks. He was not sensible that several persons were around him, and he prayed with a fervour truly edifying; the words of the prayer breathing the very soul of piety, Christian resignation, and adoration for the Deity. Never was a more touching picture presented to me. I could have fancied it the original of one of those fine pictures of Correggio, or Rembrandt, but the deep intonations of the voice, and the fervent devotion which it expressed, gave a sublimity to this *tableau vivant* that no picture ever possessed. What a contrast to the scene passing at a few yards' distance among the maniacs, insulting and deriding each other! The superintendent told us that for twenty years this priest had not ceased to pray with a similar fervour to that which we witnessed, during all the hours of the day, save when he hastily swallowed some bread and water, the only food he would touch. Sleep never stole on him until he was exhausted by abstinence and fatigue; but even in sleep he continued to ejaculate prayers, mingled with sighs and groans. In the times of the primitive Christians, this man would have been deemed a model of holiness, and after death would have been canonized as a saint; a deep and never-ceasing

sense of self-unworthiness, a contrite spirit, and an all-engrossing adoration of the Creator, were so far from being then considered as proofs of an aberration of reason, that they were regarded as the most convincing ones of a more than ordinary possession of it. Yet these are the only symptoms of insanity attributed to this priest; and from them, in our days of civilisation and mundane occupation, he is declared to be insane! I left not this enthusiast unmoved. The earnestness of his prayers, and his total abstraction from all worldly concerns, made a deep impression on me. His life of sanctity, in the midst of the herd of maniacs with whom he was surrounded, *with*, but not *of* them, reminded me of some pure stream gliding through a turbulent river, without mingling its clear water with the turbid waves. He is pitied but beloved by the superintendent and assistants of the asylum, and derided and insulted by the patients; but he is insensible of the compassion of the first, or the contempt of the second.

Spent a most agreeable day yesterday at the Vomero, at the delightful residence of our excellent friends, the Ricciardis, where we met many clever people of both sexes; among them was Mr. Cutlar Ferguson, who has long filled a high judicial office in India, and is returning to England, after an absence of many years. He is a very superior man, converses well on all subjects, and has the ease of manner peculiar to those who have seen much of the world, and mingled in some of the most distinguished of its societies.

Leoni, the celebrated improvisatore, made another of the party at the Count de Camaldoli's, and surprised, as well as pleased us, by the wonderful readiness with which he recited poems; many of them so elaborately pointed, and happily turned, as to convey the impression that they had been carefully polished instead of being improvised at the instant; individuals, some of whom he had never previously seen, being the subject of them. I can well imagine that a wonderful facility in versifying may be attained by the frequent exercise of this rare gift of impromptu composition; but I am persuaded that none can reach excellence in it save those remarkable, not only for highly poetical minds, but for a quickness of apprehension, and readiness of wit seldom accorded even to poets. This art, if art that may be named, which depends so much, if not entirely, on a peculiar attribute of genius, may well be called a lightning of the mind; for so vivid are the flashes of poetry which escape, as it were, from the improvisatore, when in the heat of inspiration, that I can compare them with nothing but those gleams of lightning, that in summer follow each other so rapidly in hot climates. That this gift is singularly rare, is proved by the comparatively few examples of it seen even in Italy, for I cannot count

mere ready rhymists improvisatores; and the solitary one in England, Mr. Theodore Hook, whose achievements in it are, I have often been told, truly surprising. In Italy, the improvisatore is encouraged, if not inspired, by the vivacity with which his points are seized, and the enthusiasm with which they are applauded; the mercurial temperaments and lively imaginations of his compatriots enabling them to appreciate every lucky hit, and applaud every poetical image. The enthusiasm he excites, animates the improvisatore to still higher flights of fancy; until his eyes gleam, and his cheeks glow, as he pours out a stream of verse which, if not of profound depth, is at least bright and sparkling to the last. The exhibition reminded me of what one imagines of a Pythoness on the Tripod, at the moment of inspiration: but a consciousness of the labour and difficulty of the performance, together with the exhaustion, mental and bodily, which it must produce, detracted from my enjoyment of it. I was painfully anxious lest the Signor Leoni should break down in any of his rhymes, or fail in any of his tropes or metaphors; and so mar an achievement, in the perfect success of which, not only his *amour-propre*, but his fame, might have been compromised. But my fears were groundless; he accomplished his various tasks without a single fault in the performance, and sat down amid the enthusiastic plaudits of his delighted auditors. Having been asked to give a subject to Signor Leoni, I named the death of Lord Byron. The following is the sonnet which he instantly improvised; and which a friend present, endowed with the pen of a ready writer, committed to paper as the lines were uttered:

LA MORTE DI LORD BYRON.

IMPROVVISATO A RIME OBBLIGATE.

SONETTO.

Di Pindo i ligni in Messolunghi un canto
 Erser funebre per le vie del Cielo,
 Allor che Byron dal corporeo ammantò
 Lasciò all' esequie estreme il freddo gelo.
 Tremò la morte nel vibrar quel telo;
 Che tolse della vita al dolce incanto
 Lui, che fulgea come vergineo stelo;
 Ed onorato serse a Radamanto.
 Scudo all' umanità, con largo core
 Visse poco l' Eroe, sparì qual lampo,
 E piange il genio Adico nel suo dolore.
 Bardo animava i combattenti in campo
 Greci, schiamando, sino all' ultim' ore
 Pugnate audaci; nel valor vi è scampo!

August.—Mr. Henry Fox, the son of Lord Holland, has been our inmate for some days. He is a most agreeable companion, lively,

playful, and abounding in anecdote, with just enough of what the French term *malice*, to render his remarks very piquant, and just sufficient good-nature to prevent their being too satirical. The French term, *malice*, must not be taken in the sense of the broader and stronger one of the word *malice*, in our language. The French phrase means simply a roguishness or slyness, that induces a person to play tricks, and draw out, and exhibit the follies of his acquaintance, for the sake of exciting a laugh, without being impelled by any desire of injuring them. Henry Fox gives such admirable imitations of the peculiarities of his absent acquaintances, that those present are infinitely amused; forgetting that they in turn will furnish subjects for the talent they are now admiring. Henry Fox is just such a forced plant, as might be expected from the hot-bed culture of Holland House; where wit and talent are deemed of such importance, that more solid qualities are, sometimes, if not sacrificed to their growth, at least overlooked in the search for them. Accustomed from infancy to see all around him contributing to the amusement of the circle they compose, by a brilliant persiflage, a witty version of the *on dits* of the day, epigrammatical sallies, which, though pungent, never violate *les bienséances de société*, and remarks on the literature of the day, full of point and tact, it cannot be wondered at, that he has become what he is—a most agreeable companion. As, however, he possesses no inconsiderable portion of the sweet temper and gaiety of spirits of his father, he may yet attain the more worthy distinction of becoming an estimable man.

Sir William Gell dined with us yesterday; always cheerful, though suffering under a malady that leaves him but a few intervals free from acute pain. No wonder that he is so universally beloved; for independent of his social qualities, his readiness to oblige, and general philanthropy, must secure him the good-will of all who know him, and the affection of those who are favoured with his friendship. Gell can be irresistibly comic too, when so disposed; and makes one laugh for successive hours by his drollery. Perhaps, in the middle of some story, related with all the spirit and broad humour in which he abounds, a violent twinge of the gout compels a pause; when he, with tears in his eyes extracted by pain, yet with a half smile, exclaims, "Pray, good Mr. Gout, take pity upon me, and let me pass one hour unmolested by your attacks. Only consider how long and patiently I have borne them; and do not wreak your vengeance on this poor, worn-out, crazy body of mine. Go to — or —, they will pamper you luxuriously, and saturate your spirit with brimming bumpers, while with me you will be starved outright, and chilled with the simple beverages, in which 'water from the spring forms the principal ingredient.'" On the

cessation of pain, he resumes the thread of his story with all the comicality of its commencement ; and those who listen, feel surprised, that he, whose drollery has so much amused them, should, though deprived of the powers of locomotion, and a prey to such frequent assaults of acute pain, have the cheerfulness, nay more, the gaiety of heart, thus to enliven and charm society.

Sir William Gell has introduced to us Mr. Richard Westmacott, a young sculptor, who has been studying at Rome, and who has executed some very charming works since his residence there. He is the son of Mr. Westmacott, who has attained such a deserved reputation in London ; and is a person of a highly-cultivated mind, and gentlemanly manners. Lord Dudley is one of his most zealous patrons, and spoke to us very warmly in his praise, all of which is justified by the merits of his *protégé*. Gell has also brought us Mr. Uwins, an artist, whose works are greatly admired here ; and whose society is justly deemed an acquisition, from his information and amiability. Mr. Uwins has made some very clever pictures and has given the happiest delineations of the glowing scenery and picturesque inhabitants, both of whom he has studied with all the *gusto* of a painter, who feels the beauty of his art, and is determined to attain in it the highest excellence.

November.—I yesterday witnessed an exhibition of an extraordinary nature, one to be seen only in a country like this, where superstition mingles in even the most sacred and solemn things. A community is formed at Naples, each member of which, during his life, subscribes an annual sum, in order that, after death, his remains should be deposited in one of certain vaults, the earth conveyed into which has the peculiar quality of preventing decomposition, and of preserving bodies as if dried by some chemical process. But the preservation of what was intended to decay, is not the only object of this institution, nor the only mode of applying its funds. The exposure, on a certain day of each year, of the frail wreck of mortality thus strangely rescued from corruption, attired in the habiliments worn by the deceased when living, is secured by the subscription; the number of annual exhibitions being dependent on the amount of the sums received. Can anything more preposterous be imagined?—nothing, I am quite sure, more disgusting can be beheld. Three or four subterraneous chapels, in the Church of Santa Chiara, divided only by partitions, are dedicated to this extraordinary exhibition, which presents one of the most ghastly scenes ever disclosed. All the sublimity of death disappears, when the poor remains of his victims are thus exposed; and instead of an appalling sight, they offer only so grotesque a one, that it is difficult to believe that the figures before

one ever were instinct with life; or that they are not images formed of brown paper, or russia leather, dressed up to imitate humanity. The subterraneous chapels are guarded by soldiers. The altars are arranged in the usual style of those in Catholic chapels; innumerable torches illuminate the place; and an abundance of flowers and religious emblems decorate it. Ranged around the walls, stand the deceased unhappily disinterred for the occasion; and clothed in dresses so little suited to their present appearance, that they render death still more hideous. Their bodies are supported round the waist by cords, concealed beneath the outward dress; but this partial support, while it precludes the corse from falling to the earth, does not prevent its assuming the most grotesque attitudes. Old and young, male and female, are here brought in juxta-position. The octogenarian, with his white locks still flowing from his temples, stands next a boy of six years old, whose ringlets have been curled for the occasion; and whose embroidered shirt-collar, and jacket with well-polished buttons, indicate the pains bestowed on his toilette. Those ringlets twine round a face resembling nothing human, a sort of mask of discoloured leather, with fallen jaws and distended lips; and the embroidered collar leaves disclosed the shrunken dark brown chest, once fair and full, where, perhaps, a fond mother's lips often were impressed; but which now looks fearful, contrasted with the snowy texture of this bit of finery. This faded image of what was once a fair child, has tied to its skeleton fingers a top, probably the last gift of affection; the hand, fallen on one side, leans towards the next disinterred corpse, whose head also, no longer capable of maintaining a perpendicular position, is turned, as if to ogle a female figure, whose ghastly and withered brow wreathed with roses, looks still more fearful from the contrast with their bright hue. Here the mature matron, her once voluminous person reduced to a sylph-like slightness, stands enveloped in the ample folds of the gaudy garb she wore in life. The youthful wife is attired in the delicate tinted drapery put on in happy days, to charm a husband's eye: the virgin wears the robe of pure white, leaving only her throat bare: and the young men are clothed in the holiday suits of which they were vain in life; some with riding-whips, and others with canes attached to their bony hands. A figure I shall never forget, was that of a young woman, who died on the day of her wedding. Robed in her bridal vest, with the chaplet of orange flowers still twined round her head, her hair fell in masses over her face and shadowy form, half veiling the discoloured hue of the visage and neck, and sweeping over her, as if to conceal the fearful triumph of death over beauty. Each figure had a large card placed on the wall above the places they occupied; on which was

inscribed the names, date of their ages, and death, with some affectionate epigraph, written by surviving friends. It would be impossible to convey the impression produced by this scene: the glare of the torches falling on the hideous faces of the dead, who seemed to grin, as if in derision of the living, who were passing and repassing in groups around them. Not a single face among the ghastly crew presented the solemn countenance we behold in the departed, during the first days of death; a countenance more touching and eloquent than life ever possessed: no, here every face, owing to the work of time, wore a grin that was appalling; and which, combined with the postures into which the bodies had fallen, presented a mixture of the horrible and the grotesque, never to be forgotten. Around several of the defunct, knelt friends, to whom in life they were dear, offering up prayers for the repose of their souls: while groups of persons, attracted merely by curiosity, sauntered through this motley assemblage of the deceased, pausing to comment on the appearance they presented.

"Why, bless me," said a middle-aged woman, with a countenance indicative of more than usual self-complacency, "here is poor Caterina Giustiani: who could have thought that she would have been so sadly changed in so short a time?" "Time changes us all sadly even before death," replied the person to whom she spoke. "Not *all* of us," rejoined the first speaker; "why poor Caterina was not above five years my senior, and now I vow she looks any age." "Five years your senior! your junior, you mean." "I mean no such thing; and I can——" Here the speakers moved away, and the rest of the dialogue was lost to me; but, from the tone of the latter part of it, and the looks of the parties, I was led to believe its conclusion was not amicable.

Many other were the observations I heard from the persons gazing on the withered remains of those they had known in life; and sorry am I, for the sake of human nature, to record, that nearly all of them were as unfeeling, and unsuited to the place in which they were uttered, as was the conversation which I have related. One woman said she remembered the day, when the gown, now hanging in loose folds on a corpse before us was bought. "Margarita was ever vain, and fond of fine clothes," continued she; "but who'd have thought, so young and healthy as she appeared, that we should so soon be gazing on her here." "Yes, and who'd have thought that she who was so pretty," replied another woman, "should so soon have lost all trace of her beauty." "Why, for the matter of that," said the other, "I never saw any great beauty in her; I always thought her like macaroni without salt, too insipid for my taste." "There are those still alive, who were not of your opinion," resumed the first speaker; "and

many a time I've heard it said, that had Margarita lived, you would not have been the wife of Giovanni Martelli." "Then you heard what is false," replied the other, her face growing red with anger, "for my Giovanni never could bear the sight of her." At this moment a group interposing between us and the speakers, prevented our hearing more. "Look at Nicolo Baldi," said a man to his companion, pointing to a male corpse, somewhat more smartly dressed than the others, "see how rakish he looks, with his head on one side, as if he were ogling the dead woman next him." "Oh! yes, poor Nicolo always had an eye to the women," replied the other. "But see who is placed at the left side of him, no other than Bartolomeo Magatti, with whom he was always quarrelling." "Poor Nicolo must be dead, indeed, to stand quietly near one he so hated," rejoined the first interlocutor. Such were the sentiments we heard expressed in the chamber of death; where the disinhumed tenants of the grave, attired in the gaudy finery worn when alive, looked nearly as fantastic and absurd, as were the observations to which they gave rise. I turned from this ghastly masquerade, nearly overcome, by the mingled vapours of the frankincense and the torches; and by the horrors of an exhibition in which the most solemn objects were exposed to the profane gaze of crowds to be made a mockery and a jest, instead of being left to the repose of the tomb.

The Duc de Fitzjames dined with us yesterday. Report says that he is come to Naples to negotiate a marriage between his aged sovereign, Charles X., and the pretty and piquante princess Christine of Naples. Probably, like the generality of reports, this one is without foundation; the ages of the parties are too disproportioned to admit of much chance of the alliance proving a happy one: nevertheless, Christine is precisely the sort of person to turn the heads of the Parisians; being elegant, graceful, and *toujours bien mise*, with a *tournure* as *distinguée* as even the Parisians could desire. The Duc de Fitzjames is a very sensible and intelligent man, with all the knowledge of the new school, and all the high-breeding of the old. There is a manly frankness in his manner and bearing, not often to be met with in those who have lived much in courts; and yet it does not deteriorate from the polish and politeness said to appertain to them. I say *said*, because I have seen courtiers commit as great solecisms in politeness as could be witnessed in the most uneducated.

December.—Dined yesterday at the dear good Archbishop of Tarentum's, where I met *Son Altesse Royale*, the Prince Gustave of Mecklenbourg Schwerin, the Duchesse de Plaisance and her daughter; a German Countess with an unpronounceable name which I forget; General Count Howguitz, who at present com-

mands the Austrian troops here; the Russian Count Beckendoff, brother to the Countess Lieven, Ambassadress from Russia to our court; Sir William Gell, some Neapolitans; and, though last, not least, Casimir Delavigne the poet, and his brother. *Son Altesse Royale* is an unaffected, good-natured, well-informed, and well-bred man. He is nephew to Queen Charlotte; and consequently, first-cousin to our King. Perhaps it is this relationship that renders him so remarkably polite and civil to the English; but whatever may be the cause, the effect is visible. Count Beckendoff is a very distinguished man; exceedingly good-looking, with *l'air noble*, mild, and polished in manner, sensible and intelligent in conversation. He is an excellent specimen of the Russian aristocracy. Casimir Delavigne has a *spirituelle* countenance, and very agreeable manners. There seems to exist between him and his brother a degree of fraternal affection, seldom witnessed. They are, I am told, inseparable, and are united by the bonds of sympathy as closely as by those of nature. There is a simplicity and modesty in the manners of both the brothers, that is very attractive, because it is evidently unaffected; and they are general favourites wherever they go. The dinner was a pleasant one, which cannot often be said of dinners where the guests are composed of persons belonging to so many different countries; and who, consequently, can have but few sentiments in common. But I attribute its agreeability to the benign influence of the venerable and amiable host, whose urbanity smooths the asperities of national prejudices, and whose tact leads the conversation to subjects of general interest.

The Russian fashion of arranging the dinner table is universally adopted by the Neapolitans. A plateau and epergne occupy the centre, as with us; and the dessert, mixed with vases of flowers, occupies the places of the dishes, which in England are set on the festive board, but which here are placed on the buffet; and are carved and handed round by the servants. This mode, though it prolongs the time of dinner, is, in my opinion, a great improvement; for the economy of the table is undisturbed, and the eye is gratified by the sight of flowers and fruit, instead of contemplating the fragments of entrées and relevés; the olfactory organs too, are regaled by sweet scents, in place of the mingled effluvia of fish, flesh, and fowl. Another advantage should also be named, a lady's sleeves are not crushed, nor her hair deranged, by a servant changing dishes over her shoulder. Some of the Neapolitan dishes are excellent; and the native cooks are by no means deficient in the gastronomic *savoir-faire*. I observed that the Neapolitans, like the French, taste of all dishes, however numerous they may be, that are served at table; and that no one, except an

invalid, limits his dinner to one or two. They do not eat more than English people do, but they require a greater variety. Yet, notwithstanding this indulgence in epicurism, foreigners suffer less from "*le remords de l'estomac*," as Grimod de la Reynière delicately termed indigestion, than do the English, who confine themselves to fewer and more simple viands. I suspect that our plain roast and boiled is too nutritious for persons not taking much exercise; and that the made dishes of the French and Italians, from the meats of which the succulent juices have been nearly quite extracted by the process of cooking, are less likely to induce dyspepsia. Perhaps it is not epicurism alone that tempts foreigners to eat of all the dishes handed round; it may be politeness which prompts them not to reject what a neighbour, seated at each side, accepts: for it certainly is *gauche* to see, as I repeatedly do, at grand dinners, some fastidious English guests declining every entrée offered them, with a rueful shake of the head, and a "*non merci*," waiting until the *rôti* is carved. The Italian confectionary and ices are far superior to those of the French and English; and their variety is infinite.

January 1826.—Filangieri (Prince Satriani), the Duc Rocco Romano, the Count and Countess de Camaldoli, their accomplished daughters, and Piazzì, dined with us yesterday. The latter talked to me of Mr. Herschel; of whose acquirements he spoke in terms of warm commendation. Referring to the knowledge of Sir William Herschel and his son, he observed, "if they with their murky atmosphere and nebulous skies judge so accurately as they do, what precision ought we not to arrive at, with our transparent one, and cloudless heavens, where with the naked eye we can better discover the stars, than they can with a powerful glass. Your countrymen are unequalled, for their perseverance, industry, unsophisticated good sense, and total freedom from charlatanism. They have arrived near the summit of the hill of astronomical science, while we, alas! have remained at its base; though the eminence has been partly concealed from them by clouds and dense fogs, and we have had it before us, but unfortunately, like the glaciers, though exposed to view, nearly inaccessible. But you have, in your admirable constitution," continued Piazzì, "a moral sun, that can dispel the most dense clouds and fogs. Ignorance and superstition have dissolved before its influence; and with such a blessing, who would complain of the rarity of the visits of that sun, which shines so brightly on us, but, alas, finds us in a state of comparative moral darkness." Some one having addressed Filangieri, by his title of Prince Satriani, Piazzì said, "I lose patience when I hear that new title, and wonder how he who bears it, so noble, and distinguished as he is, and so justly proud of the name

bequeathed to him by his illustrious father, could sink it in any title, however elevated. Filangieri is a name which every Italian is, or should be proud of. Ancient, and noble, the family can be traced to the times when it rendered such assistance to the brave Normans, but it is still more ennobled by the father of that distinguished man before us, whose works, and whose life, were equally calculated to serve and reflect honour on his country.

It is pleasant to observe the enthusiasm with which the Neapolitans refer to those who have conferred distinction on their native land, nor are they less proud of the distinguished dead, than of the meritorious living; witness their admiration and affection for the Count de Camaldoli, Piazzì, Filangieri, and Rocco Romano. The works of Filangieri, the father of the Prince Satriani, are—“*Le riflessioni politiche sull' ultima legge sovrano riguardante l'amministrazione della giustizia,*” and “*Scienza della legislazione* :” works, which acquired for their author a reputation as brilliant as durable. The mother of the Prince Satriani was one of the most remarkable women of her time. Highly educated, and devoted to her domestic duties, she was the friend and companion of her husband, in whose fame she gloried, and whose labours she cheered. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that the son of such estimable parents should be a superior man; brave in the field, wise in the council, and urbane and pleasant in society, to which his various accomplishments contribute so many attractions.

A most agreeable dinner, yesterday, at home. I like Casimir Delavigne very much; there is a *naïveté* about him that is peculiarly attractive. Not a single symptom of vanity or affectation can be detected in his manner, and his conversation is fraught with interest. I do not wonder that he is a general favourite; the strong affection visible in his brother towards him, predisposes one to believe him as amiable as he is clever; and the warmth with which it is repaid, is a proof how well it is merited. This fraternal sentiment is not displayed, or paraded, as I have sometimes seen it in others; but is honest and true. Few poets are, I should think, more happy than Casimir Delavigne; indeed, judging from what I have seen of him, he seems to have escaped the moody habits and morbid sensitiveness peculiar to that irritable tribe. His is a healthy mind, satisfied with, but not overrating self, and well disposed towards all the world: he is content with the success his writings have obtained; and is more anxious to please, than astonish his readers. The Neapolitans like him exceedingly, and fête him very much; and he appears touched by their esteem, which is evinced in a manner that can leave no doubt of its sincerity. He is not made a *Non* of, as he would be in London, where every

celebrity, no matter of what kind, is followed and stared at, until eclipsed by some new candidate for fame; but he is received with cordiality, and I might add, with affection, which cannot fail to gratify him. We are to meet him at dinner at the Count de Camaldoli's to-morrow, where all the literary people at present in Naples, are to assemble.

Casimir Delavigne came to see me to-day, and delighted me by reciting his unpublished "Columbus." It is a charming poem, and will add to his fame. He recited it admirably; and his countenance so forcibly expressed the sentiments his lips pronounced, that the verses received an additional charm. His recitation is not theatrical, yet it is very striking; and from its truth and feeling, reminded me of Moore's singing. Nothing, after all, is so calculated to create sympathy as the words being *truly felt* by those who repeat them, and not pronounced in a declamatory style that denotes the speaker to be more occupied with the manner than the matter.

Colonel Hugh Bailie dined here yesterday, and met some agreeable Neapolitans, with whom he seemed pleased; among these were the handsome Madame Nicola and her father, and the Comte Francesco Putoé. I never heard a finer voice than Madame Nicola's; round, sweet, melodious, and powerful, full of passion and sentiment; the phrase used by a French connoisseur, relative to the voice of a celebrated singer, might well be applied to hers, "*elle est pleine de larmes.*" Who that has drunk in the dulcet notes of amateur singers in Italy, could ever listen with patience to the performances of a similar class in England? *Here*, the very soul of music is breathed; *there*, the grosser part only is expressed; *here*, people sing to please; *there*, to surprise; and it must be admitted that they generally succeed. *Here*, singers make you feel, because *they* feel what they sing; while in England, vocalists think only of the effect to be produced on others, and miss attaining their object by allowing it to be evident; in fact, they no more feel what they sing, than a musical instrument does the sounds it conveys.

Music, here, may be considered as a soothing system; but English music is a positive irritation to the nerves of sensitive people.

February.—As the time approaches for quitting Naples, my regret increases. A residence of nearly three years has attached me to the country and the people by ties that cannot be rent asunder without pain; and though the poet talks of "dragging at each remove a lengthening chain," memory offers no consolation for the absence of dear friends left behind, in a land that is not our land, and where we can hardly hope to come again. Some of those friends, too, are so near the goal of life,—or, should I not say, so near heaven?—that we cannot look forward to meeting

them again on earth. The dear and venerable Archbishop of Tarantum, the good Piazzil Sad thoughts recur to my mind each time I see them, now that the period for our parting is fixed, and their consciousness that our departure will be eternal, increases my despondency. The dear and amiable Ricciardis talked of travelling in France and England, so I anticipate our meeting there: but even should they not leave Italy, they are young enough not to preclude the hope, if not the certainty, of finding them in Italy once more, should I, as I trust, return; for I cannot bring myself to think that I am leaving Italy for ever.

Two agreeable English travellers made their appearance here yesterday, with letters of introduction; Mr. Bootle Wilbraham, jun., and his cousin of the same name. Well-informed, and intelligent, they came to Italy with minds prepared for what they were to see; hence, they have neither been surprised, nor disappointed, as too often happens to persons who have not previously turned their thoughts to this country. It really is gratifying to a patriotic heart, to observe the superiority of the present generation of young Englishmen. Education, and good sense, joined to their natural result, good manners, seem to appertain to them all, with very few exceptions; and their bearing and conduct are well calculated to command the respect of the foreigners whose countries they visit. To be sure, I have met here some young men, and of ancient descent too, who displayed a degree of ignorance, not a little surprising, in the nineteenth century. One, on seeing a small lachrymatory on my table, asked what it was? A person present answered it was a *lacrymatoire*. "*A lacrymatoire*," resumed the questioner, "surely it is too small to hold enough cream, even for one cup of tea." Another seeing a small bronze statue of Voltaire on a console, on which were placed some antique lamps and vases, asked whether the latter were really antique? Being assured in the affirmative, he took up the statue of Voltaire, and observed, "Oh! for this, no one could question its antiquity: one has only to look at it, to ascertain that it must be an antique, the fellow looks so old." But the ignorance of a third compatriot is even more amusing; for living in a street at Rome, near the corner of which the filthy scrapings of the streets were permitted to be deposited, he believed the inscription expressive of this fact to be the name of the street, and dated his letters, "*Strada immondezza*;" to the no small amusement of his correspondents. Yet, these are but three solitary examples of ignorance; and I have met innumerable young Englishmen, since I have been on the Continent, who might be cited for their general information and abilities. Should this journal ever see the light, my three ignorant acquaintances will, if they ever read it, acknowledge the

exactitude of my statement, and thank me for not naming them. In detailing the ignorance of these my compatriots, I ought not to omit noticing that of a Neapolitan ; who inquired of a newly arrived Englishman, whether he had come from England by sea, or land.

Yes, leave-taking is a painful thing ; and I felt it so yesterday, most deeply, when I bade adieu to some very dear friends at Naples. Their regret justified mine ; and I was not ashamed of the tears that bathed my cheeks, when I saw theirs flowing. During the last week, which we passed at the hotel of the *Grande Bretagne*, our *salon* has been filled every evening with friends anxious to spend the last evenings of our *séjour* here with us ; and innumerable are the gifts presented to us as *gages d'amitié*, endeared by our regard for the donors.

I have seldom been more affected than the day before my departure from Naples ; when I went to bid farewell to the dear and venerable Archbishop of Tarentum, I found him in tears, surrounded by three or four friends, who were offering him consolation. No sooner had his major-domo announced us, than this amiable prelate rose from his seat, and advanced to embrace us as rapidly as his trembling limbs would permit ; exclaiming, "Ahl you see my dear friends have not left Naples without saying adieu to their old, but most attached friend. No, I thought your statement could not be correct ; and yet it agitated me more than anything ought to agitate one who must so soon bid an eternal farewell to all that is dear to him."

It appeared that one of the persons present had, in passing the *Grande Bretagne*, seen our carriages drawn out, and the courier busy in arranging them for our journey. The dear archbishop, mentioning his regret for our approaching departure, and the sadness with which he looked forward to our parting adieu, this person said, that he believed his reverend friend would be spared that pain, for some hours previously he had seen the carriages ready to convey us away. This intelligence so grieved the good *Capecellatro*, that it occasioned the tears I found still streaming down his pale and venerable face, which furnished such a proof of his affection as greatly moved me. Every word he uttered was listened to as are the words of the dying, for we cannot hope to see him more. There was a solemnity mingled in the tenderness of his parting words that I can never forget ; and which even now, bring the warm drops of affection to my eyes. The dear, the estimable Ricciardis too, I seem still to hear their kind words, and to feel their tears on my cheek. And all this occurred but so few hours ago ; and now, I have left these dear and attached friends, and sunny Naples, most probably for ever. Piazzì, the gifted and

good—Monticelli, the sage and gentle—Salvaggi, the brilliant and well-read—Rocco Romano too, the brave and chivalrous Rocco Romano; Filangieri, the worthy son of a noble sire; Pepé, generous as courteous, and high-couraged; Ischitella, honest and frank—Cazarano, gay, and joyous as his clime; Puoti, accomplished, and amiable; and St. Angelo, ever obliging and kind. These, and others, with whom we had equally frequent intercourse during our residence at Naples, all seem again to surround us, as in the last days we spent there, with warm expressions of attachment on their lips; and as warm regret at our departure, expressed in their countenances. The English are praised for the calmness and self-control, which preclude the demonstrations of affection, to whatever extent it may be experienced: there may be wisdom in this restraint, for it undoubtedly has the effect of checking any symptoms of pleasure at meeting, or sorrow at parting, in those who perhaps feel disposed to indulge in either. Who can give free course to joy, or tears, in presence of those who, imitating the calmness of Stoics, declare that they “are very glad to see us,” or that they “are sorry we are going away?” holding out, at the same time, two fingers of the right hand, not to press, but to be pressed, if it so please the person to whom the said two fingers are offered. Now in Italy, one would be as much ashamed at *not* participating in the natural demonstrations of regard, as in England, people feel afraid of betraying them; for *here*, neither coldness, nor the affectation of it, are esteemed requisites in high-breeding. People have not the *mauvaise honte* of concealing that they have warm hearts, and are capable of strong attachments; while with us the outward and visible signs of such attributes, are exhibited only by boarding-school girls, during the first months of separation from the “beloved Emma,” or, “dearest Amelia,” with whom a girlish friendship, based on the unstable foundation of puerile confidence, and romantic notions, had sprung up.

ROME.—Here we are again in the Eternal City, but only, *en passant*, *en route* for Florence. The spring is far less advanced than at Naples—dear Naples! and the place looks sombre, after the gaiety of Parthenope. Our excellent friend Sir William Gell is here, always a victim to rheumatic gout, and always bearing pain as no one else ever bore it.

I have been to the beautiful villa of Mr. Mills, on the Mount Palatine; it occupies the site of the Palace of the Cæsars, and is arranged with exquisite taste. The gardens are charming beyond description, presenting an unrivalled view of Rome and the Campagna; and containing some most interesting fragments of antiquity, seen to peculiar advantage, mingled with trees and flowering plants of luxuriant growth. The owner of this terrestrial paradise

is worthy of it : possessing a highly cultivated mind, great suavity of manners, and qualities of the head and heart that have endeared him to all who know him.

Saw the celebrated Mrs. Dodwell to-day, whose rare beauty has rendered her an object of curiosity and interest. Fame has not exaggerated her loveliness, for it is surpassing; combining the most perfect regularity of features, joined to the most sparkling and various expression of countenance. If any defect could be found, it is that she is somewhat *trop petite*; but she is so finely formed and proportioned, that she cannot be called short, though below the middle stature. Her manner is *naïve* and vivacious, which adds to her beauty; her voice is clear and sweet, and her movements, though animated, always graceful. There is not a symptom of vanity or conceit visible in her, which greatly enhances the effect of her charms. Mr. Dodwell is an antiquary *du premier genre*. Of an ancient and wealthy family in England, he has spent the greater portion of his life in travelling; of the fruits of which, his "Travels in Greece" furnish a good example, being a work replete with erudition and classical research. He is many years the senior of Madame, who is a Roman lady of noble descent. When Mr. Dodwell was showing us his fine collection of antiquities to-day, he directed our attention to a female mummy, declaring that the Egyptian dame must have been one of the most perfect beauties ever seen. At that moment my eyes were fixed on his beautiful wife, who stood by him, offering in her own person one of the most faultless models of loveliness ever beheld; and the arch smile that played round her lips seemed to say, that living beauties might be found to compete with the dead one. It would be difficult to find two persons so disproportioned in age, and so dissimilar in tastes, living so harmoniously as Mr. and Mrs. Dodwell are reported to do, by those who best know them. The beautiful Roman respects the antiquarian pursuits of her sexagenarian husband; and he tolerates the love of dancing and amusement, so natural to her years. I like them both, in their different ways; him, for his vast store of general information; and her for her beauty, her vivacity, and the originality of her mind. Yet it is a strange sight to behold this lovely Italian sylph, all youth and sprightliness, hovering round a grave, sober English antiquary, who seems wholly occupied by his collection; and more disposed to descant on the perfections of his mummy, than to dwell on the fine qualities of his wife. Nevertheless, he is fully sensible of them, and enjoys her playful sallies *con amore*.

Le Comte Alexandre De la Borde, and his son, Monsieur Léon De la Borde, dined with us yesterday: they are on their route to make a tour in Greece and Egypt. Sir William Gell and Mr. Dod-

well, who were of our party, gave them much useful information. Le Comte De la Borde is a clever well-informed man, fond of literature and science; and his son is highly educated and accomplished. Mrs. Dodwell came in the evening, looking, if possible, more beautiful than in the morning; and it amused me to see how much the *French* men were struck by her appearance. I have given them a letter of introduction to my old friend Lord Guildford. Mr. Jerningham, the son of Lord Stafford, and Mr. B. Gurdon, were presented to us to-day. They are travelling together, appear amiable, and are very gentlemanly. It must be admitted, that nine out of every ten Englishmen one meets on the Continent are entitled to this commendation. I refer, of course, to those met in society.

March.—The Italians are a very kind-hearted people, of which fact I have had many proofs. A new one was offered to me yesterday, in the interest and goodwill evinced by some of them to a Mr. Moore, an Englishman, whose extreme delicacy of health requires a winter residence at Rome, and compels the necessity of total seclusion nearly the greater portion of the time. Mr. Moore is gentle, kind, and patient, and these qualities they can appreciate; but he is likewise well read in the literature of his own country, which, though it renders his society very agreeable to his compatriots, is much less attractive to the Romans, who still regard foreigners and barbarians, as in days old, as synonymous terms. Nevertheless, they display an interest in the health of this suffering *forestiere*, that must be soothing and gratifying to his feelings, and which, I fear, he could only hope to receive from near relations at home; for a long malady, which incapacitates the invalid from sharing the amusements of his acquaintances, is very apt to take from them the desire of contributing to his. We English are like the man, who declined going to visit his friend in a prison, on the plea that he could not bear to see him in distress. We do not like visiting the sick, because we cannot bear to behold them suffering!

FLORENCE.—Lord Normanby and Mr. Henry Anson dined with us yesterday; the latter is going to Egypt, and anticipates the scenes he is purposing to explore, with all the buoyancy of youthful spirits. He is a fine young man, and very popular here. I know not what Florence could do without Lord and Lady Normanby, who entertain its inhabitants with theatricals, of which the Florentines speak with delight. They are much beloved here, and their departure, whenever it occurs, will be greatly regretted.

The Marquis de la Maison-Fort, Minister from France to the court here, called on us yesterday. He is a Frenchman of the *vieille cour*, *bien poudré, et bien élevé*, fond of the fine arts, and

passionately devoted to poetry; nay a poet himself, of which we had a proof in some lines which he recited. He spoke to us in the highest terms of eulogium, of M. de Lamartine, whom the Marquise d'Esmengard has promised to make us acquainted with. Madame la Marquise is a *bel esprit*, knows every body and every thing in Florence; can tell where the finest picture is to be seen, and the prettiest cap or bonnet is to be purchased; talks on all subjects, and *well* on all; in short, is very lively and agreeable. Mr. Francis Hare is here, and is as clever and entertaining as ever. Lord and Lady Burghersh are in England; and Mr. Strangways officiates as *chargé d'affaires*. He yesterday, in that capacity, witnessed the solemnization of a marriage between an English young man of high family and a *soi-disant* widow of French extraction. This union has caused much surprise, and, it is to be feared, may ultimately occasion as much regret.

I have seen M. de Lamartine, and greatly like him. He is very good-looking and distinguished in his appearance, and dresses so perfectly like a gentleman, that one never would suspect him to be a poet. No shirt collars turned over, an apology for a cravat, no long curls falling on the collar of the coat; no assumption of any foppishness of any kind; but just the sort of man that, seen in any society, would be pronounced *bien comme il faut*. His features are handsome, and his countenance is peculiarly intelligent and intellectual; his manners are polished, and his conversation is brilliant and interesting. He has a *présence d'esprit*, not often to be met with in the generality of poets; and a perfect freedom from any of the affectations of manner attributed to that *genus irritabile*. The truth is, that though gifted with a very glowing imagination, and a deeply reflecting mind, M. de Lamartine has been called on to act a prominent part in the scenes of actual and busy life, which has compelled him to exercise his reasoning faculties as much, as his genius has led to the exertion of his imaginative ones: hence he presents the not common union, of a clever man of business, a well-bred man of society, and a poet; and appears to advantage in all the three *rôles*. He is very well disposed towards the English; and no wonder, for he is the husband of an English lady, said to be possessed of so many estimable qualities, as to give a favourable impression of her compatriots. He has a little daughter, one of the most beautiful children ever beheld, with eyes lustrous and timid as those of the gazelle; and a countenance beaming with sensibility, and radiant with beauty. Imagination cannot picture anything more lovely than this child, on whom her father dotes. M. de Lamartine is exemplary in his domestic life; offering a proof of the falsehood of the opinion often expressed, ~~that~~ poets are not calculated to make good husbands.

The Marquise d'Esmengard, M. de Lamartine, Lord Dillon, and Mr. Strangways, dined with us yesterday. The poet improves on acquaintance, for he has a mind overflowing with information, and a fancy ever teeming with beautiful imagery; and all these rich and rare acquisitions, gleam forth, rather than are displayed in his conversation, which never seems to have for object the desire of shining. A deep religious sentiment is discoverable in M. de Lamartine, to which may be traced many passages in those poetical effusions, that appeal with such earnestness to the heart; but this sentiment is wholly free from bigotry, and has in it nothing austere or repulsive. Altogether, he is a delightful companion, as well as a very gifted poet; and is formed to be as much esteemed in society, as his works are admired in the study. He has asked me many questions about Lord Byron, and evinces an interest towards him, that goes far to prove, that he can make allowance for the infirmities of genius; which those possessed of less intellectual superiority, are so prone to comment on with severity.

April.—Lord Dillon dined with us yesterday, and in the evening, recited a considerable portion of his epic poem, entitled “Eccellino, the Tyrant of Padua.” Some parts of it are spirited, and all are highly original; as might be expected from the writer, who is a man more formed to have lived in the heroic age, than in our common-place one; for he possesses all the generosity, high courage and chivalrous feeling, attributed to the *preux chevaliers* of those times. His countenance and air, too, partake of this character; and he gives me the impression, that he is as incapable of suspecting unworthy motives in the conduct of others, as of being actuated by them himself. He is a zealous advocate of the philosophy of Kant, which he has long studied; but the warmth of his heart, and impetuosity of his nature, lead me to believe that he is more likely to admire the system of the German in theory, than to follow it in practice. Lady Dillon and her daughters (all, save one, still in childhood), offer in their handsome faces as fine specimens of the lilies and roses of their country as could be shown, and their complexions are the admiration of the Florentines.

Demidoff, the Russian Cræsus, is here, living *en prince* with a *corps dramatique* attached to his suite, to whose representations he invites, in the season, all who are presentable in Florence. He expends a considerable part of his vast revenue here; has a palace in which malachite (so rare with us, that we are only accustomed to see it manufactured in small pieces of bijouterie), is seen in tables, slabs, and vases of large dimensions, as much or more in use than marble is in England. This precious material constitutes a portion of his vast wealth, as do whole mines of platina. This singular man is said to unite two opposite qualities,—

an ostentatious display of his riches, and a prudential forethought in the manner of the exhibition. He is also said to be very superstitious ; in exemplification of which fact, various curious anecdotes are related, worthy to have figured in the dark ages.

GENOA, *December*.—Once more at Genoa; and *he* who made our *séjour* so agreeable when previously here, numbered with the dead! Every object around recalls poor Byron so vividly to my recollection, that I can hardly think, that *he* whose image is identified with all I view, is sleeping in his English grave. Mr. Barry, at whose house we spent last evening, has read me several letters and MSS. of Byron's; many of them highly characteristic, and some full of interest. Others he read, which, I hope for the sake of the living and the dead, will not be published; for whatever may be the talent they exhibit, the feeling that dictated them was not creditable. One among the number is a lampoon on a brother poet—a poet, too, for whom Byron once professed no common esteem. I remember well his repeating these identical verses to me, and offering me a copy, which I declined to accept, not only because wholly disapproving them, but because I was on habits of intimacy with the person attacked: a scrupulousness which excited the raillery of Byron. "I do not think," said he, "that many of —'s friends in England would refuse them." Strange inconsistency in the human mind, to profess, nay, I am sure, to *feel* admiration and regard for an individual, and to lampoon him; yet of this was Byron capable, as the lines I refer to, as well as some others, equally severe on his acquaintances, prove. Nevertheless, I am persuaded, had he met them, he would have evinced as much good-will as if the obnoxious lampoons had never been written; for he was a creature of impulse, wrote these things when in a bitter mood, and in their severity got rid of the temporary feeling of dissatisfaction that gave rise to them.

We were agreeably surprised by meeting our old acquaintance, Lord John Russell, in the street yesterday. He came and dined with us, and was in better health and spirits than I remember him when in England. He is exceedingly well-read, and has a quiet dash of humour that renders his observations very amusing. When the reserve peculiar to him is thawed, he can be very agreeable; and the society of his Genoese friends having had this effect, he appears here to much more advantage than in London. Good sense, a considerable power of discrimination, a highly-cultivated mind, and great equality of temper, are the characteristics of Lord John Russell; and these peculiarly fit him for taking a distinguished part in public life. The only obstacle to his success, seems to me to be the natural reserve of his manners, which, by leading people to think him cold and proud, may preclude him from exciting that

warm sentiment of personal attachment, rarely accorded, except to those whose uniform friendly demeanour excites and strengthens it; and without this attraction, it is difficult, if not impossible, for a statesman, whatever may be the degree of esteem entertained for his character, to have devoted friends and partisans, accessories so indispensable for one who would fill a distinguished rôle in public life.

Lord John Russell dined with us again yesterday, and nobody could be more agreeable. He should stay two or three years among his Italian friends, to wear off for ever the reserve that shrouds so many good qualities, and conceals so many agreeable ones; and he would then become as popular as he deserves to be. But he will return to England, be again thrown into the *clique*, which political differences keep apart from that of their opponents; become as cold and distant as formerly; and people will exclaim at his want of cordiality, and draw back from what they consider to be his haughty reserve.

To-morrow we depart for Pisa, passing by Borghetto and Lucca. The weather fortunately favours our travelling.

PISA.—Arrived here yesterday, and found the Duc and Duchesse de Guiche, with their beautiful children, established in the Casa Chiarabati, on the south side of the Lung'Arno. The Duchesse is one of the most striking-looking women I ever beheld; and though in very delicate health, her beauty is unimpaired. Tall and slight, her figure is finely proportioned, and her air is remarkably noble and graceful. Her features are regular, her complexion dazzlingly fair, her countenance full of intelligence, softened by a feminine sweetness, that gives it a peculiar attraction; and her limbs are so small and symmetrical, as to furnish an illustration of Byron's favourite hypothesis, that delicately formed hands and feet were infallible indications of noble birth. But had the Duchesse de Guiche no other charm than her hair, that would constitute an irresistible one. Never did I see such a profusion, nor of so beautiful a colour and texture. When to these exterior attractions are added manners graceful and dignified, conversation witty and full of intelligence, joined to extreme gentleness, it cannot be wondered at that the Duchesse de Guiche is considered one of the most lovely and fascinating women of her day. It is a pleasing picture to see this fair young creature, for she is still in the bloom of youth, surrounded by her three beautiful boys, and holding in her arms a female infant strongly resembling her. One forgets *la grande dame*, occupying her tabouret at court, "the observed of all observers," in the interest excited by a fond young mother in the domestic circle, thinking only of the dear objects around her. The Duc de Guiche looks like the *beau idéal* we form to ourselves, of le Cheva-

lier Bayard, "*sans peur et sans reproche.*" Singularly handsome, there is a character of chivalrous bravery, mingled with an urbane politeness in his countenance and bearing, that strikes the beholders at first sight; and his manners are well calculated to render the impression produced by his appearance still more favourable. I never saw parents and children so highly gifted by nature as are this family; and this opinion is generally partaken, if one may judge by the attention they excited when they appeared in public.

Spent last evening at the Duchesse de Guiche's, where we met M. de Lamartine the poet, who came from Florence to see the Duc and Duchesse. The conversation was lively and brilliant: M. de Lamartine is, I am persuaded, as amiable as he is clever; with great sensibility, which is indicated in his countenance, as well as it is proved in his works, he possesses sufficient tact to conceal, in general society, every attribute peculiar to the poetical temperament, and to appear only as a well-informed, well-bred, sensible man of the world. This tact is probably the result of his diplomatic career, which, compelling a constant friction with society, has induced the adoption of its usages.

Drove in the Cascina to-day; the weather so mild, as to render an open carriage very agreeable. This favourite promenade of the Pisans was nearly deserted, as were the streets; which convey the idea that the town had lately been ravaged by one of those maladies, so destructive, when the Medicis were reclaiming the swamps then around its neighbourhood. Pisa is now considered a very healthy place, and its air is said to be peculiarly salutary in pulmonary attacks. Though remarkably mild, the climate is not relaxing, a general fault attributed to mild climates.

The facility of receiving books and other comforts from England, by way of Leghorn, which is a free port, is a great recommendation. Here also are established English bankers, merchants, and shops; the latter containing many of the articles deemed so essential in the formation of an English establishment, and not always to be found in Italian shops. *Apropos* of Leghorn—how barbarous does this English name of the sea-port sound, in comparison with its Italian one, Livorno! I like not our adopting the French mode of changing the euphonious names of foreign places into our language; when the original names are as easily pronounced, and are so much more agreeable to the ear. I like this place very much; its deserted streets and sombre aspect, remind one of the precincts of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, during the vacations; and the sight of a professor or student, gliding along, adds to the resemblance. Many persons complain of the *tristesse* of Pisa; but there are people, who only enjoy themselves in gay cities, and cannot exist without balls and fêtes. Here the air

is pure and exceedingly mild, the country around pretty, and the forest magnificent. Though gaiety does not prevail, rational society is to be had, books can be procured; and what more is needful to constitute the amusement of sensible people?

The leaning tower, now that I have become used to the contemplation of it, pleases as well as surprises me, though at first it only surprised. The Cathedral, Baptistery, and Campo Santo, offer interesting objects for a morning walk. We have engaged the Casa Chiesa, on the Lung' Arno, unfortunately on the north side; but all the large houses on the south were already occupied. Luckily, however, the principal rooms of our new abode face the south. On going to see the house, I observed that the person who showed it, examined our faces with peculiar attention; and on one of our party having slightly coughed, the scrutiny became more observable, and was accompanied by a certain rueful shake of the head, that struck us as being very mysterious. The mystery was solved the next morning, when the agreement for the house was brought for signature; as in it was found inserted a special covenant, stating that in case of any individual of the family dying in the house, a certain sum was to be guaranteed to the proprietor for reimbursements; for the demolition of the plastering and painting of the apartments, and re-doing the same; as well as for the loss of the bed and furniture of the sleeping-room, which, in case of death must be destroyed and replaced by new. We looked at each other, to observe which among us was the foredoomed, and each appeared alarmed, though in as good health as any equal number of persons could be found. Our *maitre-d'hôtel*, an Italian, indignantly remonstrated with the proprietor of the mansion, asserting, with no little pride, that the family he had the honour to serve, enjoyed the most uninterrupted good health; nay more, he insinuated that a suspicion of the contrary was an affront; and more than insinuated, that we were not subject to the ills and ailments to which, alas! poor human flesh is heir. The cough heard when viewing the house, was urged in extenuation for the insertion of the covenants; to which the answer was, "Do you think a family with an invalid would look at, much less engage, a house looking northwards?" Then the plea was given, that if none of the family were *really* in a dying state, the objectionable clause would not expedite their decease, and consequently could be of no importance. But our *maitre-d'hôtel* would listen to no further reasoning on this point: and at length the proprietor of the house consented to waive the insertion of the objectionable covenants. All this *pour-parler*, though of trifling import to those in good health, would be very trying to the nerves, and might have an injurious effect on an invalid. Indeed, the want of feel-

ing and delicacy of the person who urged such a doubt, was rather disgusting; but those who gain a subsistence by house-letting, soon lose sight of all other motives than a sordid view to their own interest; and are so accustomed, in places resorted to by those suffering under acute maladies, to see death put an end to their diseases, that they calculate on a similar result to all who arrive in their dwellings.

No where does the current of life flow more sedately than at Pisa; no crowd, no bustle, and few carriages, are to be seen in its silent streets; where only now and then, a drooping-looking girl, leaning on some fond arm, or a youth, with hectic cheek and bent shoulders, glides along, mingled with some groups of the inhabitants, who eye them with a melancholy glance, that seems to foretell their approaching doom. The Lung' Arno is bordered by fine palaces, among which the Lanfranchi is conspicuous, not less interesting from the souvenirs of the middle ages attached to it, its founder being the leader of the Ghibeline party at Pisa, and the rival of Ugolino, whose terrible punishment Dante has immortalised, than from having been the residence of Byron. The severity of its style of architecture, is in harmony with the recollections with which it is associated; and few strangers pass without pausing to view it. The Lanfreducci Palace, is another of the interesting objects on the Lung' Arno, and its inscription, "*Alla Giornata*," with the iron chain still suspended over its door, said to have been placed there by its founder, in commemoration of his having been made a prisoner by the Saracens in the crusades, carries back the beholder to the olden times. But the Gothic Chapel, on the opposite side of the Lung' Arno, called the Spina, attracts all eyes, being one of the most beautiful specimens of the skill of Giovanni di Pisano, so celebrated in his art. The smallness of the dimensions, and exquisite execution and proportion of the building, justify the naïve exclamation of an English fine lady of great wealth, who, on beholding it, said to her lord, "Do, pray, dear —, buy me that beautiful little thing, and have it sent home, to be placed in my flower-garden." Three bridges span the Arno, and the quays at both sides of it are magnificent.

January, 1827.—The Pisans are remarkably civil to strangers; and already have we experienced much of their politeness. The Chancellor of the University, Signor Anguillesi, a poet of no mean repute, and the Professor Rossini, a well-informed and sensible man, have been doing the honours of their town to us. There is established here a little colony of Greeks, among whom are some of the highest families of the Fanare. Prince Michael Soutzo, (1) formerly Hospodar of Moldavia; Prince Carragia,

(1) At present minister from Greece to the British Court.

Hospodar of Vallachia, with their families; the Archbishop of Mitylene and suite; and Argyropolo and his wife. The Prince Michael Soutzo is a man of superior abilities, and most polished manners. The Princess appears a very amiable woman, and their sons and daughters give an excellent specimen of their race, being peculiarly good-looking and remarkably intelligent. The Archbishop of Mitylene is a venerable and excellent personage. A curious episode in his life is the *sejour* he made with that remarkable man, Ali Pacha, of whom he relates many very interesting anecdotes, which go far to prove the quickness of apprehension and natural talent of the Turk. The Archbishop has collected a fine library, which he means to bequeath to his country, and which we inspected to-day. The choice in the selection is that of a philosopher, rather than of a dignitary of the church; yet why should the profession of philosophy and religion ever be considered incompatible—both, in their true senses, inculcating morality and virtue? Monsieur Mostras, the friend and secretary of the Archbishop, has arranged the library, and classed the books with a precision that enables one to find any work required, with the greatest facility. This Greek colony are nearly all well-informed and clever men, who have known adversity, and profited by its harsh lessons.

February.—The mode of passing time at Pisa, is more rational than in most other places; for though it may be urged, that we are all at liberty to dispose of our hours as best suits our inclination, still the interruptions consequent on a town residence, preclude the enjoyment of diurnal occupation, so agreeable, if not necessary to those habituated to it. The mornings here are not broken into by visitors; so that the hours from breakfast until it is time to ride or drive into the country, are wholly at one's own disposal. The evenings are devoted to visits, when a cheerful society are collected, those staying after the *prima sera*, who have no other engagements. We meet in my house and one or two others, without the ceremony of a formal invitation; and time flies with incredible rapidity in these pleasant reunions. The Prince and Princess Soutzo, the Prince and Princess Constantino Carragia, the Archbishop of Mitylene, the Duchesse de Guiche, the Count Pozzo di Borgo, the Chancellor Anguillesi, and Professor Rossini, are the general *habitués*. Literature, the fine arts, and the peculiar usages of the different countries to which the individuals composing this friendly circle belong, form the usual topics of conversation. Politics are never named, and scandal is banished. These reunions are never dull, and seem to induce a more than ordinary sentiment of good-will between the parties, founded, probably, on the circumstance, that each is aware that, in all human probability,

a few fleeting months will scatter them as wide asunder as are their native lands, never more to meet; and that the agreeable evenings now passing, will return no more between the same persons.

The Count Pozzo di Borgo residing here, is nephew to the celebrated Russian ambassador of that name, at Paris. He is lively, agreeable, and good-natured, answering perfectly to the French denomination of *un bon enfant*. The Countess is a most amiable woman, but in such very delicate health, as to be wholly confined to her own *salon*, and two pretty daughters, *not yet come out*, form the family at present here. The Count and Countess de Maistre are also residing at Pisa for the winter. The Count is the author of the amusing book, entitled, "*Tour autour de ma Chambre*," and of the highly interesting one of "*Le Lépreux de la Vallée d'Aost*." He is a martyr to ill health, which nearly precludes his mixing in society; much to the regret of those who have once enjoyed his conversation. This pleasure I had a few evenings ago, when I was present at the representation of an Italian comedy, well got up at the residence of the Count Pozzo di Borgo, the principal characters in which were well enacted by his two pretty and accomplished daughters. All the rank and fashion, as the "*Morning Post*" would say, of Pisa, were at this representation; and among the ladies were some very handsome faces; though all agreed that none were comparable to the Duchesse de Guiche, who shone the beauty of the evening; a fact of which she alone seemed totally unconscious.

Mr. Francis Hare is arrived from Florence, to spend a few days with us: he is as gay, clever and amusing as usual, and, consequently, is an acquisition to our circle.

The news has arrived of the death of the dear good Duke of York, and has plunged us all in sadness. Never did a kinder heart beat in a human breast than in his; and never was there a person more beloved by his friends, and they were numerous. How many instances of his good-nature have recurred to my memory, since I heard the sad news of his death; and how many are now sympathising with my feelings of regret for him! He never allowed a difference of political opinion to produce any coldness between him and those he honoured with his regard; and honest and conscientious in his own, he was disposed to give others credit for the same good motives for theirs. The stability of his friendship was as admirable as was the placability of his resentments. His was a heart in which rancour could not find a place, nor deception a harbour. I have heard him, when the tide of public opinion ran high against an individual of his acquaintance, silence the malignity of some (an encounter with whose tongues

few would have dared), by a frank avowal that, however appearances might be against the individual, *he would not, could not credit the reports until they were proved*; and begged they might change the subject. Peaceful be his rest, kind-hearted and excellent man ! who, to many virtues, added as few errors as ever fell to the share of humanity.

Pisa, ever dull, sober Pisa, has its carnival ; and a more *triste* abortion of an attempt at gaiety, as far at least as the public part of the exhibition goes, never was seen. Some fifty old carriages, of the most outré shapes and fashion, drawn by horses caparisoned in trappings as obsolete, and attended by servants, in liveries *à la mode* of a century ago, parade along the Lung' Arno ; the occupants of these antediluvian equipages, dressed in their gala garments. One or two modern carriages, well-appointed, belonging to *parvenu* families here, make those of *l'ancien régime* look more absurd ; but the owners of these last are proud of their antiquity, and would not on any account suffer them to be modernized. The people, too, seem to look on the old vehicles with more respect than the new ; a proof that *they* have not yet adopted the liberalism of the French, shown in the mockery levelled by the people of that nation against all that is old. The pedestrians that crowd the Lung' Arno are nearly all in masquerade dresses, most of them of the fashion of centuries gone by. The balconies, and windows, are decorated by tapestry, and damask curtains of gay colours ; so that the whole scene resembles some of those seen in the old pictures, and has a curious effect. The theatre, too, is open, and the performances are tolerable. The ladies go masked, and pay visits even in the boxes of strangers, to whom they address many civil speeches ; never, however, violating the laws of decorum and good-breeding. The Italian ladies are peculiarly polite to those of other countries, sending gifts of flowers, fruit, and *bonbons*, offered with a delicacy of manner very agreeable. The weather has been uninterruptedly mild, and free from rain, since we have been here ; resembling the fine days in the early part of October in England.

March.—Mr. Wilkie, (1) our celebrated painter, has come to spend a few days with us. He enjoys Italy very much ; and his health is, I am happy to say, much improved. He was present last evening, at a concert at the Duchesse de Guiche's, where a delicate compliment was offered to her ; the musicians having surprised her with an elegantly turned song, addressed to her, and very well sung ; copies of which were presented to each of the party, printed on paper *couleur de rose*, and richly embossed. This *galanterie* originated with half-a-dozen of the most distinguished of

(1) Now Sir David Wilkie.

the Pisans; and the effect was excellent, owing to the poetical merit of the verses, the good music to which they were wedded, and the unaffected surprise of the fair object to whom they were addressed. Mr. Wilkie seemed very much pleased at the scene, and much struck with the courtly style of beauty of our hostess.

Mr. Lister, the author of "*Granby*," has come here for a few days. He is a very gentlemanly, well-informed young man, of peculiarly mild manners, and with a good taste for the fine arts.

We went to Leghorn yesterday: a large party, consisting of the Duchesse de Guiche, Mr. Lister, Mr. Wilkie, and our own family. A portion of our party went on board Admiral Codrington's ship, which was in the harbour; and returned much gratified by the inspection of it. I, who have seen so many ships, devoted the time during which they were absent, to an examination of the English cemetery; where repose the mortal remains of so many of my countrymen, who came to this mild climate, in the vain hope of recovering health, and remained to die. A cemetery, at all times and in all places a sight that appeals to the feelings, does so most forcibly when sacred to our compatriots, in a foreign land: and I could not look at the graves, without thinking how many fond hearts have yearned to behold these last resting-places of the loved dead, from whom seas divide them. The tomb of Horner is distinguished from all others, by a cameo, the work of Chantrey, admirably executed. Smollett's grave who could pass without a sigh? remembering the delight his works have so often afforded. The guide pointed to a tomb, and said, "There, signora, is one that few of your compatriots look on without smiling: strange, that people can smile at an epitaph, which I am told is so very melancholy." The following is the inscription, written by the defunct, and engraved on the tomb by her express desire:—"Under this stone lies the victim of sorrow; fly, wandering stranger from her mouldering dust, lest the rude wind, conveying a particle thereof unto thee, should communicate that venom, Melancholy, that has destroyed the strongest frame and liveliest spirits. With joy did she resign her breath, a living martyr to sensibility."

There was no resisting the two last lines, which, I fear, prove incontestibly that the deceased was an Hibernian. "Ah! signora, you too smile, like all the rest, at that monument," said the guide; "well, for my part, I cannot understand why."

The shop of a Jew named Hadbib at Leghorn, filled with shawls, and various other objects of Eastern manufacture, is much frequented, and offers an assemblage of very rich merchandise to tempt strangers. We dined at Leghorn, and returned home in the evening, well-pleased with our excursion.

April.—Paid a visit yesterday to the Prince and Princess Car-

ragia, who reside in the Palazzo Lanfranchi, in which Byron lived. I was glad of an opportunity of seeing the rooms he inhabited; and the scene I beheld in them reminded me of him: he would have been struck with it. The room in which the Princess received us is a large one, and contained several articles of furniture in the Turkish style. Her dress too, was more in the Oriental than French or Italian mode; and gave her a very picturesque appearance. The Princess is far advanced in years, and speaks no language but her native one, so that we were compelled to have recourse to an interpreter. She was attired in a robe of very rich Turkish materials, and of a peculiar form; and on her head was a small embroidered kerchief, with a bunch of natural flowers. She wore, although in the morning, a necklace of splendid pearls with a magnificent diamond clasp, and bracelets, and rings, that might have excited the longing of a queen. She sat on a low ottoman, covered with a rich India shawl, and another was placed at her feet. *Vis-d-vis* to her, sat the aged Prince her husband, in his Turkish costume; his gray beard flowing over his breast, and his magnificent pipe by his side. He speaks Italian, and French, and is a shrewd old man. Count Pozzo di Borgo, who accompanied us in the visit, and who frequently spends an hour with the Prince and Princess, asked the latter to let us see some of her jewels, a request with which she good-naturedly complied; and the Prince ordered pipes to be brought for the gentlemen. It was curious to behold the barbaric paraphernalia glittering before our eyes. On one side were the pipes, sparkling with rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds, with which the amber mouth-pieces and handles were encrusted; poniards, and Damascus sabres, equally enriched with precious stones; and on the other were shining, in the open casket of the Princess, diamonds, uncut rubies, and emeralds, of immense value. One necklace particularly caught my attention. It consisted of a single row of pear-shaped diamonds, pierced at one end, through the punctures of which was passed a silver thread. There was no setting, of any kind, to this necklace; and never did I see so beautiful an ornament. Coffee was served *à la turque*, in delicate china cups incased in silver filagree ones; and the Prince and Princess did the honours of their residence with a grave dignity.

Dined yesterday at the Archbishop of Mitylene's, and partook of a repast in which many Turkish and Greek dishes were introduced. I found them excellent; particularly a pillaw, the rice served with which was so admirably dressed that, white as snow, and very hot, each grain might be separated from its neighbour without being crushed: yet it was perfectly boiled. A kid, roasted whole and stuffed with pistachio nuts, was delicious. The dinner was

sumptuous, consisting of three courses, *à la française*, besides *hors-d'œuvres*; among which were caviare and various other Russian delicacies. The choice and abundance of the *sucreries* surprised us, though accustomed to the variety and excellence of them in Italy. Endless were the sweet things composed of flowers, and not only tasting, but impregnated with the odour of them. One cake of rose leaves was a *chef-d'œuvre*; and another of orange flowers, was pronounced worthy of being served with nectar. The truth of Moore's song, in which he asserts that beauty cannot live on flowers, might be disproved by the sight of the dessert *à la turque*, and *à la grecque*; for never did more tempting cakes court the appetite of woman. The party consisted of the Duchesse de Guiche, the Prince and Princesse Soutzo, the Prince and Princess Constantino Carragia, and our family, with Mr. Mostros. After dinner, coffee was served *à la turque*, and in a separate chamber pipes were laid for the gentlemen; who rejoined us, breathing, not of the insupportable fumes of tobacco, but of rose-water, through the medium of which they inhaled it. In the evening, some additional guests were added to the circle; and a more agreeable party I have seldom seen.

May.—We gave a dinner yesterday in the forest of Pisa, one of the most beautiful spots I have seen in Italy. The trees are magnificent, the verdure of the most vivid green, and the sea bathes one side of the forest with its blue waters, in which the lofty pines are reflected. But what adds considerably to the Oriental aspect of the scene, are the droves of camels wandering through it. Yesterday, the illusion was completed by the presence of Prince Soutzo, and some others of our guests, in their Turkish costumes. As we sat at a table spread under the stately trees, through which the bright sun glanced on the plate with which it was piled, the turbans, flowing beards, and rich robes of some of the guests, and the snowy draperies of the ladies, had a very picturesque effect; while groups of camels passing, and repassing in the back ground, gave a notion of the halt of a caravan in some Eastern country.

June.—Dull as this place might be considered by most people, we depart from it with regret; for in it we have passed some pleasant days, and we leave behind us some whom it would grieve me to think I should meet no more. The Pisans are excellent people, kind-hearted, friendly, and obliging. In their society we have spent some agreeable evenings, and from them we have received many civilities.

Our Greek acquaintances we have learned to regard as friends: clever, intelligent, and amiable, we shall greatly miss the pleasure which our intercourse with them affords us; but I trust we shall meet again. This trust is founded on the talents of Prince Michael

Soutzo, which are too remarkable not to place him in a distinguished position, whenever his country is sufficiently tranquil to permit a government to be established; in which, doubtless, he would be called on to fill an important situation. I have never known a more interesting family than his; nor one in which talent and worth are so united.

The good Archbishop, too, I regret to leave; so mild, so full of Christian virtues. In the gay and dissipated society of other places, where people only meet for amusement, and have little opportunity of becoming really known to each other, they part without regret. But in a quiet, secluded town like this, the habit of daily intercourse, and in a limited circle, establishes an intimacy somewhat resembling that formed by guests in large country-houses, who might have met nightly amid the festivities of a crowded metropolis, without creating anything more than a slight acquaintance. Innumerable are the *gages d'amitié* we have received from our new friends here; and deep is the regret expressed, and I do believe felt, at our approaching departure. They kindly and flatteringly assert that they shall never be enabled to pass the Casa Chiesa without sorrow; and more than one poetical effusion has been already written on the subject. Yes, parting is a melancholy thing, and so I have ever felt it.

FLORENCE.—Arrived here three days ago. The heat intense, and inhaling in this inn, good though it be, the odour of the cuisine, and the fleshpots therein preparing all day. The smell alone is enough to make one fat, and yet to preclude appetite, so overcoming are its fumes. Much as I had heard of the flowers of Florence, their variety, profusion, and beauty surpass my expectations; and tempt me to undraw my purse-strings frequently during the evening drive. The delicacy of their hues, and the delicious odours they exhale, must surprise as well as delight those accustomed only to the paler and less odoriferous flowers of our colder clime; but even at Rome and Naples, there are none to be found comparable to those daily offered for sale here. Among the other *agrèments* of Florence, is an excellent bookseller's shop, where most of the new productions of literature can be purchased; and where I half ruined myself to-day. But who can resist flowers and books?—Not I, I am sure.

Made the acquaintance of Walter Savage Landor, ten days ago, and have seen him nearly every day since. There are some people, and he is of those, whom one cannot designate as "Mr." I should as soon think of adding the word to his name, as in talking of some of the great writers of old, to prefix it to theirs. Of Walter Savage Landor's genius, his "Imaginary Conversations" had, previously to our meeting, left me in no doubt: of the elevation of his

mind, the nobleness of his thoughts, and the manly tenderness which is a peculiar attribute of superior men, and strongly characterises him, I had learned to form a just estimate; but the high breeding and urbanity of his manners, which are very striking, I had not been taught to expect; for those who spoke of him to me, although sincere admirers of his, had not named them. His avoidance of general society, though courted to enter it, his dignified reserve, when brought in contact with those he disapproves; and his fearless courage in following the dictates of a lofty mind, had somehow or other given the erroneous impression, that his manners were, if not somewhat abrupt, at least singular. This is not the case, or if it be, the only singularity I can discern, is a more than ordinary politeness towards women—a singularity that I heartily wish was one no longer. The politeness of Landor has nothing of the troublesome officiousness of a *petit-maitre*, nor the oppressive ceremoniousness of a fine gentleman of *l'ancien régime*; it is grave and respectful, without his ever losing sight of what is due to himself, when most assiduously practising the urbanity due to others. There is a natural dignity which appertains to him, that suits perfectly with the style of his conversation and his general appearance. His head is one of the most intellectual ones imaginable, and would serve as a good illustration in support of the theories of Phrenologists. The forehead broad and prominent; the mental organs largely developed; the eyes quick and intelligent, and the mouth full of benevolence. The first glance at Landor satisfies one that he can be no ordinary person; and his remarks convince one of the originality of his mind, and the deep stores of erudition treasured in it. It is not often that a man, so profoundly erudite as Landor, preserves this racy originality, which,—as the skins, employed in Spain to contain wines, imparts a certain flavour to all that passes through them,—gives a colour to all that he has acquired. He reads of the ancients, thinks, lives with, and dreams of them; has imbued his thoughts with their lofty aspirations, and noble contempt of what is unworthy; and yet retains the peculiarities that distinguish him from them, as well as from the common herd of men. These peculiarities consist in a fearless and uncompromising expression of his thoughts, incompatible with a mundane policy; the practice of a profuse generosity towards the unfortunate; a simplicity in his own mode of life, in which the indulgence of selfish gratifications is rigidly excluded; and a sternness of mind, and a tenderness of heart, that would lead him to brave a tyrant on his throne, or to soothe a wailing infant, with a woman's softness. These are the characteristics of Walter Savage Landor; who may justly be considered one of the most admirable writers of his day, as well as one of the most remarkable and original men.

July.—Tired of Schneiderffs, with its perpetual bustle, and never-ending odour of soup, we have been so fortunate as to find a charming retreat in the Casa Pecori, on the Lung' Arno, formerly arranged as a *maison de plaisance* for Elise Bacciocchi, when grand Duchess of Tuscany. Here she retired, from the pomps and cares of royalty to sip sorbetto, and enjoy the privacy of a *petit-souper* with a few confidential friends. It is thus ever that people seek enjoyment, in a sphere which is not their ordinary one. Sovereigns delight in occasionally laying aside their grandeur in some less glittering home, than the palace, which seems so enviable a dwelling to all but them; while those not born to splendour, imagine that if in possession of it, happiness should be theirs. Alas! both are in error. It is the heart and mind that constitute content—happiness is not for earth.

The Casa Pecori is small, but charmingly arranged; the principal rooms open to a terrace covered with orange trees, with a delicious pavilion at the end, overlooking the Arno. Nothing can be prettier than this spot, and here we have decided on passing the sultry months of summer.

August.—I enjoy our *séjour* here exceedingly. The mornings are devoted to the galleries, where an intimate acquaintance is formed with the best works of art; which, like those of nature, can only be appreciated by long and frequent study. Every day, some fresh beauty of the old masters makes itself felt; and in contemplating their works, one can fancy oneself acquainted with the minds of those inspired painters of the olden time. It is delightful to pass whole hours lounging through apartments, the walls of which are glowing with landscapes, or forms divine, steeped in an atmosphere of beauty; but it is doubly delightful to have the rooms free from the herd of travellers, who rush from picture to picture, uttering, in audible tones, "the cant of criticism," acquired from some guide-book, or book of travels, without feeling the merits they praise, or the defects they censure. At this season, Florence is free from travellers; and this immunity constitutes one of its chief attractions in my eyes. The evenings are passed in enjoying the delicious freshness of the Cascina, or in driving in the pleasant environs; until the shades of night send us home to enjoy iced tea and sorbetto in our charming pavilion overlooking the Arno, where a few friends assemble every evening. Walter Savage Landor seldom misses this accustomed visit, and his *real* conversations are quite as delightful as his imaginary ones. In listening to the elevated sentiments and fine observations of this eloquent man, the mind is carried back to other times: and one could fancy oneself attending to the converse of a philosopher of antiquity, instead of that of an individual of the nineteenth century;

though, to be sure, one of the most remarkable persons of this, or any age.

We have an acquisition, as well as an addition to our circle, in the Duc de Richelieu, who has arrived. He is very agreeable and unaffected, and seems to enjoy Florence much, or at least our mode of life in it. The effect of this climate on the spirits, is sensibly experienced by all who come from the frigid north. A cheerfulness, if not a gaiety, is engendered by the genial atmosphere, even in those of a saturnine disposition; and life itself is felt to be more pleasurable, than in our clouded land. The adventitious aids to which people have recourse, in order to urge the flight of Time at home, are here never employed or even remembered; for the speed of the ruthless tyrant is found to be rendered quite rapid enough, though his footsteps are unheeded, by the agreeable frame of mind which the bright skies and sunshine here occasion.

September.—I have been much amused by a long visit from the Prince Borghese, who is lately returned from England, of which he speaks very highly. Such is the obesity of this noble Roman,—for a Roman he is, though he resides at Florence,—that he dare not indulge in repose in a horizontal position; and sleeps either in his carriage, in which he drives about during the greater part of the night, or in a large chair, constructed for the purpose. His features are handsome, and the expression of his countenance is remarkably good-natured, but it is never illumined by a ray of intellect; and he seems so overpowered by the vast mass of flesh in which he is incased, that all personal movement is so difficult, as to render him averse from attempting it. He gives one the notion of a man sheathed in a *couvre-pied* of eider-down, from which he cannot extricate himself, and suffering incessantly from its warmth. His voice too is feeble; and, issuing from so huge a frame, reminds one of the fable of the *Montagne accouchée d'une souris*. He wears a profusion of rings of great value; so large in their dimensions, that they might serve as bucklers for men of small stature. Altogether, he out-herods Falstaff in size, but wants the activity and vivacity of the fat knight. It took him ten minutes to recover his breath, after ascending the stairs to the drawing-room, though two servitors assisted him in the operation. And this was the husband of the *petite et mignonne* Pauline! Never surely, did Hymen join two persons so dissimilar before. In speaking to Prince Borghese, one is unconsciously tempted to raise one's voice to the loudest pitch, as if addressing some person in an inner room, he seems so hermetically enclosed by his huge envelope of flesh; yet his sense of hearing is not impaired. The wealth of the Prince is immense, and his hospitality is commensurate with it. He is said to have a kind heart; (I wonder how it is to be got at through

the thick rampart by which it is encircled), and though not gifted with much intellectual power, is not deficient in resolution; witness his pertinacity in resisting Pauline's efforts to extract a portion of his wealth. The beautiful Pauline (for beautiful she continued even to her dying day) ascertaining that the allowance granted by her husband, when she separated from him, was too small to satisfy her expensive habits, and finding every attempt to induce him to pay her debts unsuccessful, sued him in a court of law, for a restitution of conjugal rights, and gained her suit. She believed, and so did all who knew both parties, that *il marito* would pay any sum, rather than have her again as an inmate in his palace. But she was mistaken, for he submitted to the law; said he was ready to receive her, but refused to admit any of the numerous suite of *dames de compagnie, gentilshommes de la chambre, secrétaires, médecins, etc. etc.*, who were attached to her establishment; her two *femmes de chambre* only being allowed to accompany her. With these hard conditions, want of money compelled *la belle Pauline* to comply; and she arrived at the Palazzo Borghese determined to achieve anew, the conquest of the heart of her husband. She arrived all smiles; the Prince met her at the top of the stairs and embraced her: "*Cara Paulina*" and "*Carissimo Camillo*," were gently murmured by the lips of each, as he led her nothing loth to the wing of the Palace appropriated to her use. He enquired kindly about her health; not a word, or look, of reproach escaped either; and his manner was so amiable, that she fancied her empire already established. He took his leave, that she might, as he considerately said, repose from the fatigue of her journey, and kissed the beautiful little hand tenderly held out to him. Pauline was delighted; every thing looked *couleur de rose*; but lo! when having examined the suite of apartments allotted to her, she wished to enter those of the Prince, that she might thank him for the attention paid to her comfort in the arrangement of them; she found the door of communication between the two suites *walled up!* Finding, after a short residence beneath the conjugal roof, that neither smiles, nor tears, could unloose the purse-strings of her husband, or restore to her his affections, she left it, and returned to her former abode, unable to commence any new suit against the Prince; he having given her no ostensible cause of complaint; *au contraire*, having treated her with marked politeness during her residence beneath his roof.

October.—Lord Caledon, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, and Mr. Hallam, spent last evening with us. The latter is an agreeable man, with an acute mind, prone to examine all that interests him, and not disposed to adopt any opinion, without investigating it in all its bearings. It is an amusing study to observe how much men's

minds are influenced by the peculiar occupations to which they devote their time. I think, I should have quickly discovered that the author of the "Middle Ages," was an historian, had I never heard the fact, from the manner in which he unconsciously sifted circumstances detailed in the conversation to which he listened. His appears to be a mind that never trifles, but sets seriously to work on whatever subject engages his attention. Even now, in this delicious country, instead of enjoying his holidays, from literary labour, it is plain that it is not idle; and that in society he is laying in a store of information to augment the treasures he already possesses. Mr. Hallam's is a peculiar countenance, but a very intelligent one; indicative of no ordinary share of acuteness, and good sense. I anticipate much gratification from the prospect of seeing him frequently at Rome this winter. When Mr. Hallam's name was announced, some Italian ladies who were present immediately asked, if that was indeed the author of the "Middle Ages;" and felt gratified at having seen him. A group of English ladies might possibly be less acquainted with the work referred to by the Italian ones with so much pleasure, or might probably have evinced less satisfaction at beholding its author. Except T. Moore, I never saw any other writer received with peculiar distinction by my countrywomen; and even the gifted poet might owe his popularity among the gentler sex to his songs, to which his peculiar and charming mode of singing them adds such attractions.

November.—Lord Lilford has departed for England, and, having had him for a daily guest during the last three months, we miss him very much. He is so good-natured, and good-tempered, (two qualities that, whatever people may assert to the contrary, do not always go together,) that like sugar, which amalgamates with things the most opposite, and softens the acidity of the most sour; his mildness smooths down the asperities of all with whom he comes in contact. He is formed to dwell in Italy, and enjoy the *dolce far niente* of its luxurious climate, but, I cannot fancy him engaged in the active duties of a senator at home. There is an imploring expression of *laissez-moi tranquille* in his good-natured face, that is very rare in so young a man, and argues ill for his distinguishing himself in life; if distinction, as most people believe, can only be attained by active pursuits, and persevering exertions. Lilford will make an uxorious husband, an indulgent father, and a quiet master; and, after all, it is not of every one of whom so much good can be predicted.

ROME.—Arrived from Florence late last night,—to find the house prepared for our reception wholly unlike what we expected, and totally unsuitable for so large a family as ours. And this the Romans call a palace! but so they do every house with any pre-

tensions in this city. It is astonishing that with such an influx of English, the Romans have not, like the Neapolitans rendered their houses more fitted for their accommodation. They have contented themselves, with demanding prices à l'anglaise, but have left the dwellings, for which such exorbitant rents are asked, in all the pristine nudity of Roman discomfort. I like the grandeur of the old foreign houses, faded though it be, infinitely better than the tawdry attempt at modern French decoration, now so prevalent at Rome.

I have occupied the whole day in house-hunting, and never beheld less tempting habitations than those I went over. Not one offered a single room in which a person accustomed to comfort could say, or fancy, here I can manage to render the apartment cheerful, and liveable. In one of these dreary mansions I met Mr. Hallam, who looked as ruefully as myself at the gloomy, half-furnished rooms; but more surprised, I fancy, at the rent, demanded; as he is a stranger in the land, wherein I have been a sojourner of some three years' standing.

I have, at length, found an abode, in the Palazzo Negroni, of which I have engaged the two principal floors, at one hundred guineas a-month, for six months certain, a sum for which an admirable house could be had in England; while this is, though the best to be had, anything but desirable in my opinion. The entrance is through a small court-yard, into which the stables open; and the task of Hercules, in cleansing the Augean ones, was not more required than here. The suites of rooms are good; but the furniture of the whole would not be sufficient to arrange two of them with comfort, so that, now the house is obtained, we must look out for furniture to be hired, to put into it. This acquisition will, I am told, cost about twenty pounds a-month; and after all, the abode will not be comparable to any of those to be had at Naples. But murmuring will not render things any better; so *courage!* and to-morrow I will try if, with the aid of countless yards of white muslin, for clean window curtains, innumerable table covers, with which we are always provided, to conceal the ill-polished wood; and some dozen of eider-down pillows, smartly cased, to lay along the hard backs of the miserable half-stuffed sofas, I can render the three saloons habitable.

Half the inconvenience of travelling is removed by the possession of a capacious fourgon, that "real blessing to women," as Dalby's Carminative is advertised to be to mothers. From its roomy storehouse is drawn forth those moveable articles so indispensable to the "comfort of the learned, and curious—not only in fish-sauces," but in arranging houses. Thence comes the patent brass bed, that gives repose at night; and the copious supply of books, which ensure amusement during the day. Thence emerges

the modern inventions of easy chairs and sofas to occupy the smallest space when packed; *batteries de cuisine*, to enable a cook to fulfil the arduous duties of his *métier*; and, though last, not least, cases to contain the delicate *chapeaux*, *toques*, *bérets* and *bonnets* of a Herbault, too fragile to bear the less easy motion of leathern handboxes crowning imperials. Yes, a fourgon is one of the comforts of life. Peaceful be the fate of its inventor!

It was fortunate that the house engaged for us was only hired for one month; or we should have had to pay for it for the whole term. We have, therefore, got off well with the loss of forty pounds for two nights' lodging.

Rome is filled with English, and in every street the carriages, liveries, and faces, of my compatriots are so continually met, that one could fancy oneself at home, instead of being so far distant from it. English shops, and among these a confectioner too, is established. Hear it, ye gods of ancient Rome! an English confectioner in Italy, which surpasses the rest of the world in its *sucrerie*. The Romans laugh and shrug their shoulders at our national tastes, and well they may.

We are established in the Palazzo Negroni; and now that a sufficient quantity of furniture has been introduced, the rooms look very habitable. The Duc de Laval-Montmorenci, the French ambassador here, spent last evening with us, and was very entertaining. I like this French and Italian mode of visiting, which gives up the evenings to society, reserving the mornings for one's occupations. The *prima sera*, devoted to paying or receiving visits, is the portion of the evening that intervenes between dinner and the time for attending the balls, *soirées*, or the theatre; which, as the dinner hour here is two hours earlier than in London, might otherwise fall heavily on the hands of those who depend on society *pour passer le temps*.

The Duc de Laval-Montmorenci is a singular but amiable man, always in a hurry, with a strange mixture of acuteness and simplicity, high breeding and *brusquerie*, chivalrous feeling and mundane wisdom, ostentation and prudence, wit and *naïveté*: each of these qualities influencing him in turn; and their opposing dictates produce the most extraordinary effect, and occasion the strangest inconsistencies in his manner and character. Some one speaking of him as being very agreeable, Lord Dudley observed, that the Duc was as much so as a man could be who cannot hear, see, or speak plainly. The truth is, he is deaf, extremely short-sighted, and stammers very much. Nevertheless, he is very agreeable; for he has seen much of the world, abounds in anecdote, has an excellent heart, a good temper, and is always good-natured and obliging. A passionate admirer of beauty, he talks in raptures of charms he is too short-sighted to see, even where they

exist ; and which he is prone to attribute to every woman he meets. He speaks of *les beaux yeux bleus* of a lady whose eyes are black, *le teint délicat* of a dame highly rouged, and *la gentillesse d'une charmante jeune personne*, who is near forty. He recounts a story full of interest, pauses in the middle, turns an appealing look to the listeners, and exclaims "*Mais, mais c'est drôle, tout-à-fait drôle ; j'ai tout oublié ! je n'y comprends rien . . . qu'est-ce que c'est donc que je disais ?*" This forgetfulness is so frequent, that those who live much with him are accustomed to remind him of the point at which he stopped, and then he resumes. At other times, in the midst of a conversation, he drops asleep, without in the least changing the dignified posture which he always maintains ; and after slumbering for a few minutes, says, "*Oui, oui, vous avez bien raison, c'est clair ; je vous fais mes compliments : c'est impossible d'être plus juste.*" Of the smiles produced by these peculiarities, he is, owing to his being so short-sighted, totally unconscious ; and should a laugh, as is not unfrequently the case, escape from those around him, his deafness precludes him from hearing it. His appearance, bearing, and manners are so distinguished and *comme il faut*, that he never can be an object of ridicule : although he sometimes forces even those who esteem and respect him to smile at his peculiarities. His abilities in diplomacy are said to be of no inferior order, and his general information is very extensive. The *prestige* attached to the name he bears, predisposes people to look for in him those qualities said to be indigenous in true nobility. Nor are those who seek them disappointed ; for the Duc de Laval-Montmorenci, notwithstanding the peculiarities I have noticed, possesses a delicacy of sentiment, nobleness of mind, and amiability, worthy of "the first Christian baron" of his ancient ancestors. He is in high favour with the Pope, and is much beloved by the Cardinals. The generosity of his conduct to Pius the VIIth, when in France, has won him golden opinions from the whole Catholic hierarchy. Conscientious motives induced that Pope to conceal some of his personal wants from Napoleon, from whom he wished to avoid incurring obligations ; the Duc de Laval discovered and removed the wants, with a liberality only to be equalled by the delicacy with which they were supplied.

December.—Lord Howick and Mr. Wood dined here yesterday. The former is quick and intelligent, but grave, beyond his years ; and he wants the suavity that tempers the aristocratic *fierté* of his father, and lends such a peculiar charm to the natural dignity of that enlightened statesman. Lord Howick is decidedly a very clever young man, but is too distant and reserved to be a very popular one. Mr. Wood is lively and entertaining, with an originality of manner indicative of an originality of mind. The besetting sin of

too many young Englishmen of the present day, is a conventional tone, in which, two very opposite peculiarities, abruptness and reserve, seem to be equally blended; and as the union is never agreeable, one is glad to meet some person who has courage enough to preserve his natural manner, instead of adopting that of his contemporaries. It is tiresome to see a number of young men, as similar to each other, in behaviour at least, as so many pieces of cambric muslin; and like these, the intrinsic qualities concealed by the artificial stiffness of the dressing.

Letters from home—What a yearning of the heart does the word *home* excite! When distance divides us from our native land, we cease to recollect its dense fogs, chilly atmosphere, gloomy skies, and uncertain climate; and remember only the many nameless blessings and comforts to be found in home, and in home only. Perhaps, however paradoxical the supposition may appear, some portion of the charm of home may be derived from the severity and uncertainty of our climate. With what pleasure do we enjoy the genial warmth of a blazing fire, a well-lighted apartment, and the luxurious comfort of an easy chair or well-stuffed sofa; after having the physical feelings chilled, and the mental ones rendered gloomy, by the cold and cheerless atmosphere, to which in England we are so continually exposed! It is certain that we most frequently think of home, as associated with the comforts we draw around us in a winter's evening.

Mr. Hallam, and Mr. Terrick Hamilton, the translator of "*Antar*," dined with us yesterday. I like both, for they are clever in their different ways. Mr. Hallam's literary reputation has preceded him in Italy; where his "*Middle Ages*" is as generally read as duly appreciated. I like meeting Mr. Hallam among the ruins of Rome, or in the Vatican, where he may be frequently encountered, anxiously exploring every spot, and examining every object likely to throw a light on the subjects to which he has turned his comprehensive mind. He has with him a son, a youth of very extraordinary promise; and though scarcely out of boyhood, already capable of being the sharer of his father's pursuits, as he will, I trust, one day become the successor of his fame. Mr. Hallam is treated with deserved distinction at Rome, not only by his countrymen, but by foreigners; many of whom, if not all, are conversant with at least one of his works, "*The History of the Middle Ages*." Mr. Terrick Hamilton is brother to Mr. Hamilton, formerly minister at Naples. Sensible, well-informed, and gentleman-like, he is sure to be esteemed by those who can appreciate an honesty of mind, and firmness of purpose, that never permits him to conceal his own opinions, or tolerate what he deems defective in those of others. I refer to his politics, which are high Tory; nevertheless, his good-breeding precludes the expression of his

sentiments from ever becoming offensive to those of opposite parties; for he assails their opinions, or defends his own, in a manner never calculated to interrupt the harmony of society.

My poor dear friend, Sir William Drummond, came to see me yesterday; and the alteration in his appearance absolutely shocked me. He was borne from his carriage (in which he reclines supported by pillows), by two servants, in a chair arranged for the purpose; and looked precisely like the sitting statue of Voltaire, executed so shortly before his death. Though as emaciated and pale as it is possible to be while yet life remains in the frail tenement, his mind retains all its pristine vigour, and his conversation is as delightful as ever. He is conscious that "the King of Terrors" is fast approaching, and awaits his presence with all the dignified composure of a philosopher of old. He spoke to me of his approaching end with calmness; said he should have liked to have had time to finish the work in which he is engaged; and observed, that it was a blessing, for which he was penetrated with gratitude to the *Most High*, that his mind still survived the wreck of his body, and enabled him to bear, if not to forget, the physical sufferings entailed by disease. "Never did I enjoy composition or reading more than at present," said he; "and engaged in both, I sometimes forget how soon I shall be called from this life; and wonder how, with this awful consciousness, I can enjoy these, which have been from youth the sources whence I have derived my happiness." I have never witnessed such an example of the triumph of mind over body, as is exemplified in my poor dear friend; and how so frail a tenement can contain so bright a guest, seems little less than a miracle. Sir William Drummond spoke to me in high terms of our friend Walter Savage Landor to-day, whom he looks on as one of the most remarkable men of our time. In referring to his own consciously approaching end, he said, "There is something in Rome, with its ruins, and the recollections with which it is fraught, that reconciles one to decay and death. The inevitable lot of all things seems here so strongly brought before one, that the destiny of an individual is merged in that of the scene around him."

February.—Attended a very splendid *bal masqué* at the Duchess de Bracciano's last night. The fine suite of apartments looked magnificently; brilliantly illuminated, and filled with crowds, attired in the most rich and varied costumes imaginable. A female mask, elegantly dressed, accosted me several times. Her observations were so piquant and witty, that I wished to discover who she was; but no one could, or would tell me. At length a clue to the discovery was afforded me, for she approached leaning on the arm of the Duc de Laval-Montmorenci; and we had a very amusing conversation, in which he took part. In the course of the even-

ing, the Duc informed me that the agreeable mask was no other than *la Reine Hortense*, known, at present, as the Duchesse de St. Leu. Before the ball broke up, she again spoke to me, avowed who she was, and expressed a wish to see me at her house ; where I shall certainly take an early opportunity of paying my respects. A mask in a blue domino also accosted me several times, and kept up a lively and clever conversation. After some time he confessed who he was, and proved to be the ex-King of Westphalia. He is vivacious, and agreeable in conversation, and his manners are very polished ; with such evident good-humour, and good-nature, as to banish restraint from those with whom he converses. The Prince de Montfort, as he is at present styled, bears a striking resemblance to the pictures and busts of the Emperor Napoleon, but he is taller, and much less disposed to *embonpoint*, than his brother. His complexion is a deep but clear brown, his eyes dark and animated, his teeth remarkably good, and the expression of his countenance quick, intelligent, and pleasant. The *bals masqués* at the Duchesse de Bracciano's furnish an opportunity for the Duchesse de St. Leu and the Prince de Montfort to mix in general society, of which they frequently avail themselves, always maintaining a strict *incognito* except to a chosen few. The Duc de Laval seizes these, the only occasions afforded to him, to give his arm to the Duchesse de St. Leu, and to enjoy as much of her conversation as he can ; his position as Ambassador of France here, precluding him from going to her house. The Bonaparte family, except at the masked balls at the Duchesse de Bracciano, never enter into any general society at Rome. The Duchesse de St. Leu receives twice a-week at her palace ; and her parties, never large, are considered the most agreeable at Rome. The Princesse de Montfort receives also twice a-week ; and her *soirées* are attended by all the foreigners of distinction, several of the Roman nobles, and the Ambassador of Russia and his attendants ; the near connexion of the Princesse de Montfort with the Emperor of Russia, inducing every possible demonstration of respect to be paid to her and the Prince by his Ambassador. The Prince uses the imperial liveries, of green and gold ; the Princess drives out daily in a handsome equipage, accompanied by her children, their *gouvernante*, and her lady in waiting ; and the Prince rides, attended by his Chamberlain and two or three others of his suite. The Bonaparte family are greatly esteemed and respected at Rome ; where they expend much money, not only in a liberal hospitality, but in extensive charities.

Our old and clever friend, Mr. J. Steuart, the nephew of Sir William Drummond, is arrived here, and with him Lord King ; they spent last evening with us. I call Mr. J. Steuart our *old* friend, though he is in the prime of youth, because we knew him

so well at Naples. He is very clever, and kind-hearted, with an imagination that only requires to be mellowed by time to produce good fruit, and possesses many of the qualities of his uncle. Lord King is a young man of great promise, highly educated, and of a studious turn; he has travelled much, and missed no opportunity of gaining information which may fit him for being a useful and distinguished member of either house of Parliament.

The Count Funchal is Ambassador from the court of Portugal here; and has not forgotten his English, which he speaks with as much pleasure as correctness. He has seen much of the world, and its strange vicissitudes, owing to the unsettled state of his country; but he has borne them with true philosophy, and is one of the most cheerful and amusing companions imaginable. Count Funchal lives with much splendour at Rome; inhabits one of its finest palaces, is extremely hospitable, and consequently popular. We see him frequently; and the more I see, the more I am pleased with him. His appearance is very peculiar, and his dress is still more so: the former offers a perfect model of the ancient Portuguese aristocracy, or, at least, of our received notion of it; being exceedingly short in stature, with a large head and face, the features plain, but the expression full of benevolence. He gives me the idea of a beneficent fairy, condemned by the wand of some wicked necromancer to assume the shape he now wears; but through which the pristine goodness of his nature peeps forth, rendering ugliness bearable, nay even agreeable. His dress is unique in its kind, and thrice too large for him. The garments suit him, and each other, so ill, that they give the notion of being purchased at the sale of some *fripier*; and contrasted with the splendour and variety of the decorations conferred on him by his Sovereign, and those at whose courts he has filled the office of Ambassador, look still more grotesque. But all these *petits ridicules* are forgotten, when one has conversed with Count Funchal for an hour; his knowledge of the world, and kindness of nature, render him so agreeable.

A very *aimable* and *amiable* person here, is the Marchesa Couzani. These two epithets, though nearly similar in sound, are widely different in signification: a person may be the one, without any pretensions to being the other; and *vice versa*. La Marchesa is fortunately both; which renders her society very desirable. A dreadful occurrence took place in her family two years ago, from the terrible effects of which she is only now recovering. One day having gone to attend divine service at St. Peter's,—she ordered that when her carriage came for her, it should bring two of her children, and a nurse, that she might take them into the country for a drive. Just as she reached the steps of St. Peter's after the service, she saw her carriage driving up, and her first-born, a

lovely child, leaning forward from the side window, to kiss hands to its mother. The door flew open as the carriage was in the act of turning round, the little girl fell to the earth, the wheel passed over its delicate form, and the vital spark was extinguished in a moment. The feelings of the agonized mother at witnessing this fearful event may be imagined, but never can be described. For many months her health and reason were despaired of: but time, the best friend of the afflicted, has soothed her sorrow, though it has still left a pensiveness in her countenance and manner, that render her peculiarly attractive. When I look on this amiable young woman, blessed with great wealth, a high station, noble ancestry, an excellent husband and fine children, and think that, though in the possession of so many advantages, she has not escaped the general lot of human kind, severe trial, I am ready to admit that the destiny of even the most favoured is seemingly equalized with the less prosperous state of others, by some heavy affliction.

I seldom pass a day without spending two or three hours in St. Peter's. It is the most delightful promenade imaginable, offering the most perfect coolness in summer, and the most genial warmth in winter. Surrounded by all that can charm the eye, or elevate the mind, a walk through this beautiful fane is, to me, a high intellectual treat; and I feel to want some prized, though accustomed pleasure, whenever any *contretemps* precludes this enjoyment. There are many days, in which I have the glorious temple nearly to myself; or, at least, only a few sacristans, are seen gliding through it, with noiseless steps. These are precious days; and so dearly do I value the solitude so delicious in such a spot, that only the deepening shades of evening drive me from it. At other times, the echoes of the voices of my compatriots painfully break the silence of the place; and subjects the most mundane and least suited to the scene, are canvassed. The ball of the past, or coming night, the last arrivals, or departures, are discussed; and as the sounds of these colloquies, are born along, I shrink back at this profanation of a temple where prayer, and solemn music alone, should give voices to the echoes. Sometimes I meet a solitary pilgrim telling his beads; a devotee prostrate before the shrine of some saint; or a monk lost in a religious reverie. These are in keeping with the scene; and I involuntarily tread with lighter steps lest I should interrupt their devotions. But on the Sabbath, exquisite is the pleasure of sitting apart, in some secluded spot, and hearing the solemn music of the pealing organ, and the thrilling chaunt of the singers, reverberating through the magnificent pile. In such moments, the *present* is forgotten; its grovelling cares, and puerile occupations, appear as nought: but the mournful past and the unknown and mysterious future, seem blended in my

thoughts; which are lifted to the Supreme Being, whose omniscience alone sees the trials that await, and those that have been borne by, poor mortals. The sublimity of the music was so impaired, when I sat in the chapel, and could *see* as well as *hear*, the musicians, that I have avoided entering it. A stupid, inexpressive countenance, which indicates that the possessor feels the sounds he utters, no more than a musical instrument is conscious of the sentiment of the harmony it breathes, robs the rich treat offered to the ears of half its charm; and a moving mountain of obesity, in the garb of a priest half asleep, or a yawning dignitary of the church, dissipates the illusion which the scene, and the enchanting music, are calculated to excite. At a suitable distance, all these disenchantments vanish, and the soul is wrapt in elysium for the time being. Why, on retiring from the temple, should the ears be shocked by overhearing the arrangements for the re-unions for the evening talked of? Yet so it is.

March.—Though prepared to meet in Hortense Bonaparte, Ex-Queen of Holland, a woman possessed of no ordinary powers of captivation, she has, I confess, far exceeded my expectations. I have seen her frequently; and spent two hours yesterday in her society. Never did time fly with greater rapidity, than while listening to her conversation, and hearing her sing those charming little French *romances*, written and composed by herself; which, though I had always admired them, never previously struck me as being so expressive and graceful, as they now proved to be. Hortense, or the Duchesse de St. Leu, as she is at present styled, is of the middle stature, slight and well-formed; her feet and ankles remarkably fine; and her whole *tournure* graceful, and distinguished. Her complexion, and hair, are fair, and her countenance is peculiarly expressive; its habitual character being mild, and pensive, until animated by conversation, when it becomes arch and *spirituelle*. I know not that I ever encountered a person with so fine a tact, or so quick an apprehension, as the Duchesse de St. Leu: these give her the power of rapidly forming an appreciation of those with whom she comes in contact; and of suiting the subjects of conversation to their tastes and comprehensions. Thus with the grave she is serious, with the lively, gay; and with the scientific, she only permits just a sufficient extent of her own *savoir* to be revealed to encourage the development of theirs. She is, in fact, “all things to all men,” without at the same time losing a single portion of her own natural character; a peculiarity of which seems to be, the desire, as well as the power, of sending away all who approach her, satisfied with themselves, and delighted with her. Yet there is no unworthy concession of opinions made, or tacit acquiescence yielded to conciliate popularity; she assents to, or dissents from, the sentiments of others, with a mildness, and

good sense, that gratifies those with whom she coincides, or disarms those from whom she differs. The only flattery she condescends to practise, is that most refined and delicate of all, the listening with marked attention to the observations of those with whom she converses; and this tacit symptom of respect to others is not more the result of an extreme politeness, than of a fine nature, attentive to the feelings of those around her.

The Duchesse de St. Leu never could have been what is called a beauty; but it might be said of her, as it was of the celebrated La Vallière, that she possesses *la grace plus belle encore que la beauté*, for I never saw any person more graceful. It is not often that a woman so accomplished, unites the more solid attraction of a highly cultivated mind, yet in Hortense this is the case; for though a perfect musician, a most successful amateur in drawing, and mistress of three languages, she is well-read in history and *belles-lettres*; has an elementary knowledge of the sciences, and a general acquaintance with the works of the most esteemed authors of ancient and modern times. Her remarks denote an acute perception, and a superior understanding; and are delivered with such a perfect freedom from all assumption of the self-conceit of a *bas-bleu*, or the dictatorial style of one accustomed to command attention, that they acquire an additional charm from the modest grace with which they are uttered. Never did mortal escape the dangerous ordeal of a throne with less deterioration of natural fine qualities, than this charming woman; or experience the no less trying touchstone to human nature, reverse of fortune, with a more perfect equanimity of character. When I see her thus cheerfully conforming to the vicissitudes of the mutable goddess Fortune, and in the privacy of domestic life, exciting as much respect and attachment as when she was queen, I am sometimes tempted to ask, can this be the woman who formed the pride and ornament of the brilliant court of Napoleon? *her*, whom he delighted to honour, and who, elevated to a throne, conciliated the affection while she won the esteem of her subjects. Hortense has acquired much philosophy in the school of affliction, and it has strengthened her mind, without having hardened her heart; which is still as susceptible of pity for the misfortunes of others, as if she had been exempt from similar trials. She showed me her diamonds yesterday, and some of them are magnificent, particularly the necklace presented to the Empress Josephine, by the city of Paris. It is a *rivière* of large diamonds, of such immense value that none but a sovereign, or some of our own princely nobility, could become the purchaser. Her other diamonds are very fine, and consist of many *parures*, some presented to her as Queen of Holland; and others bequeathed to her, with the necklace, by her mother. Her bed, furniture, and toilette service of gilt plate, are very magnificent,

and are the same that served her in her days of regal state. The arrangement of her apartments indicates a faultless taste, uniting elegance and comfort with grandeur. She has some fine portraits of Napoleon and Josephine in her possession : on our contemplating them, she referred to her mother with as much sensibility as if her death had been recent.

At the Palace of the Duchesse de St. Leu, we met the Marchesa Camarata, daughter of the Princess Eliza Bacciocchi. This lady is said to bear a very strong resemblance to Napoleon ; the freshness and bloom of her complexion, however, gives so totally different a character to her countenance, that though the features may resemble his, the likeness to him did not strike me. The Marchesa has been brought up much more like a boy, than a girl. She rides and shoots with all the skill and boldness of a man ; and is said to confine her studies to grave history and biography, the subjects that most generally occupy the minds of men. Though *brusque*, she is kind and good-natured, and treats women with a sort of air of protection, similar to that adopted by old soldiers towards the gentler sex ; and which is *piquant* and amusing in a young and pretty woman.

Prince Louis Bonaparte lives with his mother, and never did I witness a more devoted attachment than subsists between them. He is a fine, high-spirited youth, admirably well educated, and highly accomplished, uniting to the gallant bearing of a soldier all the politeness of a *preux chevalier* : but how could he be otherwise, brought up with such a mother ? Prince Louis Bonaparte is much beloved and esteemed by all who know him, and is said to resemble his uncle, the Prince Eugène Beauharnais, no less in person than in mind ; possessing his generous nature, personal courage, and high sense of honour.

It is evident, that in relinquishing all the prerogatives of sovereignty, Hortense Bonaparte has not resigned those *d'une femme aimable qui veut plaire*, for she has won by her merit an empire over those who have the happiness of enjoying her society, perhaps more enviable than the imperial one she once possessed. I think it was Joseph II., who observed, that "*l'état naturel n'est pas d'être roi, mais d'être homme*;" a truism which cannot be questioned ; but it may with equal truth be asserted, that he who is most calculated to fill the rôle of a man, with honour and dignity, is the best suited to enact the less natural one of a sovereign. Judging by this criterion, it requires no stretch of belief to give credence to the praises lavished on the conduct of Hortense, when Queen of Holland ; for she possesses all the qualities necessary to impart lustre to a throne, and to diffuse happiness in private life. The trials through which the Duchesse de St. Leu has passed, and they have been neither few nor light, have only served to develop the many

noble qualities of her nature ; as the blade of Damascus becomes more finely-tempered, from the operation of the fire to which it has been exposed. I remember M. Casimir Delavigne telling me, before I had the pleasure of knowing this amiable lady, that few women who possessed such solid qualities, would have humility enough to condescend to please ; especially when she might so easily command admiration, by the display of her superior mental powers and acquirements. He added, that the facility with which she suited her conversation to the level of those with whom she associated, had always appeared to him one of the most convincing proofs of superiority, knowing, as he did, the versatility and extent of her knowledge. Many of the romances written and set to music by the Duchesse de St. Leu, were addressed to her brother the Prince Eugène Beauharnais, when he was with the army. They breathe the very spirit and soul of tenderness, allied to the chivalrous sentiment of honour, and thirst for fame for the beloved object, that characterised the ladies of old ; and while she sang, I could fancy I saw before me one of the dames chosen to adjudge the prizes of *la cour d'amour*, to the most peerless knight in love and in arms. The stirring times in which Hortense passed her early youth, when every courier announced a battle, in which those nearest and dearest to her were engaged, impressed on her character many of the attributes peculiar to women in the days of chivalry ; namely, a heroic love and devotion to her country, and a generous pride in those heroes who were reflecting honour on it by their prowess in war. These sentiments in our "times of piping peace" and utilitarianism may to many appear romantic and exaggerated, but ; to my thinking, they invest this charming woman with increased interest ; more especially, as their indications escape from, instead of being exhibited by her. Of Napoleon she speaks with respect and admiration. It is, however, evident, that his divorce from her mother, deeply wounded the feelings of this attached daughter ; and though his reverses and misfortunes awakened afresh in her bosom the sympathy and interest experienced for him in other days, the same affection never could revive. She consequently deserved the more credit for the readiness with which she hastened to him in his hour of need, and the generosity with which she pressed upon him the wreck of the fortune left to her. The Empress Josephine she never names without her eyes becoming suffused with tears ; and, seeing the adoration and reverence in which she holds her memory, I consider it no trivial proof of esteem, that she has presented me with a turquoise and diamond ring, worn by the Empress during many years, and which, on that account, the Duchesse greatly valued.

April.—Returned yesterday from the Château de Bracciano, which the Duc and Duchesse of that name were so obliging as to

lend us for a week. Our party was a very agreeable one, consisting of our own large family, Sir William Gell, Colonel D'Este, and Mr. Terrick Hamilton. The château is, I am told, the most perfect specimen of a feudal castle left in Italy, and is truly magnificent. Placed on a lofty eminence, it commands a boundless prospect on both sides; on one is seen the beautiful lake, with the fine woods that surround its shores; and on the other, the picturesque town of Bracciano. The ascent to the castle is so steep, that carriages can only with great difficulty be drawn up it; but this steepness gives a more imposing effect to the building. The gothic towers, formed of black lava, stand boldly out in strong relief against the blue sky that surrounds them; and the whole place forms just such a picture as the pen of a Radcliffe delighted to trace. Nor would the lives of some of its former owners furnish an uninteresting subject for one of those dark romances, the perusal of which so often blanched my cheek with fear, in the days of my early youth; for here dwelt the bold and lawless Orsino, Duc de Bracciano, the lover, and afterwards the husband of Victoria Accoromboni, whose romantic life and tragical death form so striking an episode in the history of Tuscany. The castle contains some fine suites of rooms, and the principal ones still retain many of the vestiges of their former splendour. The tapestry and hangings are said to bear date from the time of the Orsini, and the grim shadowy figures in the first, and the barbaric splendour of the second, accord well with the solemn grandeur of this noble pile. The principal apartments overlook the lake, whose blue and broad expanse, bounded on three sides by woods, has a fine effect. Many old portraits, as well as other pictures, nearly coeval with the building, decorate the walls; and massive chairs and sofas, on which the originals of the portraits may have sat, are still arranged beneath them. During the day, we amused ourselves in exploring the castle, pacing the battlements, and rambling by the side of the lake, which supplied us with some delicious fish; and in the evenings, we sat round a blazing wood fire, and told ghost stories. To render them more terrific, we extinguished the candles, and as we listened to, or related, every fearful tale, which memory or imagination could furnish, and saw the scowling faces of the tapestry and pictures lighted up by the fitful blaze of the fire, the whole scene resembled one of those of which we sometimes read descriptions, but rarely have an opportunity of seeing. At intervals, I could almost fancy that the grim face of the murdered Peretti, the first husband of Victoria Accoromboni, scowled from the wall; and, as the light fell on a female countenance, it seemed as if that ill-fated heroine glanced pensively down on the strangers who sat within her halls. A ghost story loses half its terrors, unless told in a feudal castle like this, with every object

around appealing to the imagination with irresistible power. Sir William Gell, whose nerves the disease under which he has so long laboured has weakened, became so much alarmed, that he declared he had not courage to face the gloomy and faded grandeur of his vast sleeping-room alone, and positively had his servant to sleep on a couch in his room : while I dreamt of the supernatural horrors of which we had prated, and awoke more than once to see my night-lamp throwing its flickering light on the frowning countenances, that seemed to menace me from the walls of my large and lofty apartment. The present possessors of the Château de Bracciano, are much and deservedly beloved by their dependants and neighbours here, to whom they dispense, with a liberal hand, many of the comforts of life.

We left Bracciano with regret, after having passed a few days as agreeably and harmoniously as possible; and, what does not always happen, after being inmates beneath one roof, the individuals composing the party, seemed perfectly pleased with each other.

On our route to Bracciano, Sir William Gell proposed our stopping to see Galeria, a village occupying the site of the citadel of an ancient Etruscan town of some importance; but, in modern times, inhabited by a small population of about one hundred souls. Seated on the top of a steep and insulated knoll, projecting into the beautiful valley, through which the river Arona glides along, nothing can be more picturesque than this village; and perhaps that, and the valley which it overlooks, acquire increased beauty from being contrasted with the bleak and arid country around, in which it stands, like an oasis in the desert. Galeria is about half way between Rome and Bracciano, and half a mile distant from the high road. This village was deserted some years ago; why, or wherefore none can, or at least, none will tell. The houses remain in nearly the same state as they were left; a simple wicket admits the stranger into the silent abodes, once cheerful with the voices of their inhabitants. Images of the Madonna, and the patron saints of the proprietors, still decorate the humble edifices, though no votive lamp now burns before the *Madre Santissima*; and the walls are dight with many a gaudy print, once objects of pride and pleasure to the unadulterated tastes of the rustic denizens of Galeria. The ashes still are piled on the lonely hearths, where, in winter nights, merry faces were assembled round the blazing fire; and melancholy echoes resound to the footsteps of the stranger, where mirth once awakened joyous ones. Many articles of furniture were left in the houses when the inhabitants fled, apparently regardless of their moveables. The church, where prayers were offered up to the Deity, is now desecrated by the bird of night; and the cemetery, where repose the ashes of the dead, that last stronghold of the affections, is neglected,

and perhaps forgotten. Powerful must be the motive which could induce persons to desert the last resting-place of those dear to them, that which constitutes the most binding tie of home, the ashes of our dead ; which, mingling with the earth of our country, gives it its most sacred claim on our memories and tenderness. The well, with its bucket and chain still dangling, though the iron, from disuse, is thickly coated with rust, looked the picture of desolation : and the stone bench, sheltered by trees, where once sat the aged, as the young danced to the brisk sound of the *tambour de basque*, appeared not less solitary. Though so early in the spring, an abundance of wild flowers were peeping through the tangled mazes of the ruined gardens, scattered through the hamlet ; and the rank grass was waving through the pavement of the streets, while innumerable birds were flitting about, and sending forth their joyful notes, which rendered the silence and solitude of the Deserted Village still more sad and gloomy. The guide who conducted us from the Osteria, could or would give no explanation of the motive which led to the extraordinary desertion of the inhabitants of Galeria : but on questioning the people at the post-house on our return, a few hints, rather than an acknowledgment of the fact, led to the conclusion that some act of sacrilege, committed at the hamlet, had brought down excommunication on it, and led to the result we witnessed. Whatever might have been the cause, the effect was striking ; and I have never beheld a more interesting or romantic spot, than the secluded and ruined village of Galeria.

April.—Mr. Hope, the son of the author of *Anastatius*, has arrived here, and has brought an introduction to us. He is gentlemanly in his manners, but so almost every young Englishman of good family now is, and he is vivacious and intelligent, which all of them, I grieve to say, are not ; witness the difficulty often experienced in maintaining anything like conversation with many of those worthies. The son of a very clever father must be more than ordinarily clever himself, to gain consideration for talents. People are so prone to institute comparisons between the father and the son, and so disposed to adjudge the superiority to their contemporary, that the son is apt to be underrated. He shares the fate of an actor, who succeeds another in a very successful rôle ; whatever may be his merit, the first impression being given by his predecessor, he stands the chance of being considered at best but a good copyist : or if he enacts the part differently, he will be found fault with, because his performance does not resemble that, of him with whom he is compared. If a son happens to possess the qualities that distinguished his parent, people say, " Yes, he does remind one of his father, but how different ! " If he has merit of another kind, they shake their heads and say, " Ah, how unlike our old friend ! "

May.—Walking in the gardens of the Vigna Palatina yesterday, with our amiable friend the owner, Mr. C. Mills, we were surprised by the arrival of the Prince and Princess de Montfort, and their children, with Madame Letitia Bonaparte, or *Madame Mère*, as she is generally called, attended by her chaplain, *dame de compagnie*, and others of their joint suite. Having heard that Madame Mère disliked meeting strangers, we retired to a distant part of the garden; but the ex-King of Westphalia having recognized my carriage in the court-yard, sent to request us to join them, and presented us to his mother, and wife. Madame Letitia Bonaparte is tall and slight, her figure gently bowed by age, but, nevertheless, dignified and graceful. Her face is, even still, remarkably handsome, bearing proof of the accuracy of Canova's admirable statue of her; and a finer personification of a Roman matron could not be found, than is presented by this Hecuba of the Imperial dynasty. She is pale, and the expression of her countenance is pensive, unless when occasionally lighted up by some observation, when her dark eye glances for a moment with animation, but quickly resumes its melancholy character again; yet even when animated, her manner retains its natural dignity and composure, and she seems born to represent the mother of kings. The Prince de Montfort, and his excellent wife, treat her with a watchful and respectful tenderness; each supported her, and suited their pace to her feeble steps, listening with deep attention to her observations. She was dressed in a robe of rich dark grey Levantine silk, and a bonnet of the same material, worn over a lace cap, with a black blonde veil. Her hair was divided *à la Madonna* (her own white hair) showing a high and pale forehead, marked by the furrows of care. A superb Cashmere shawl, that looked like a tribute from some barbaric sovereign, fell gracefully over her shoulders; and completed one of the most interesting pictures I ever beheld. I must not omit recording that her feet are small, and finely formed, and her hands admirable. Her voice is low, and sweet, with a certain tremulousness in it that denotes a deep sensibility. She spoke of the Emperor Napoleon; and her lip quivered and her eyes filled with tears. "I shall soon join him in that better world, where no tears are shed," said she, wiping away those that chased each other down her cheeks; "I thought I should have done so, long ago, but God sees what is best for us." Sorrow, sanctified by resignation, has given to the countenance of this interesting woman, an indescribable charm. The Prince and Princess de Montfort, led the conversation to other topics, in which *Madame Mère* joined, but by monosyllables; yet her manner was gracious and gentle, and marked by much of that affectionate earnestness which characterises Italian women, and particularly those of advanced years and elevated rank. When

we had made the tour of the garden, walking very slowly, in order to avoid fatiguing her, she entered her carriage, into which she was assisted by Jerome, and my husband; the ex-King and Queen of Westphalia kissed her hand, the latter performing the ceremony with as profound a respect, as if a diadem encircled the brows of Letitia, and that she herself had not borne one. *Madame Mère* invited us to visit her, and at parting touched my forehead with her lips, and shook hands with Lord Blessington, saying kind and flattering things to us both. The gentlemen, including the Prince de Montfort, all remained with their hats off, until her carriage had driven away, when that of her son and his suite followed. There was something highly scenic in the whole scene of our interview. Here was the mother of a modern Cæsar, walking amidst the ruins of the palace of the ancient ones, lamenting a son whose fame had filled the four quarters of the globe, and formed an epoch in the history of Europe; her tottering steps supported by another son from whose brow the diadem had been torn, and who now, shorn of his splendour, reminded one of the poet's description of a dethroned sovereign.

"He who has worn a crown,
When less than King, is less than other men:
A fallen star extinguish'd, leaving blank
Its place in Heaven."

The other supporter of *Madame Mère* added much to the effect of the picture. The daughter of kings of the old legitimate stock, and allied to half the reigning sovereigns of our day, she has nobly, femininely, and wisely, adhered to the fallen fortunes of her husband, resisted the brilliant offers of her family, and shares the present comparatively obscure destiny of him, on whose throne her virtues shed a lustre. There is something touchingly beautiful in the respectful tenderness of this admirable Princess towards the aged mother of her husband, and her unceasing, and affectionate attention to him, and her children; while the unaffected sweetness of her manners inspired us with a more profound reverence for her than the possession of the most brilliant crown could have excited in our minds.

Colonel Tiburce Sebastiani, brother to the General of that name, a Corsican by birth, and connected with the Bonaparte family, told me at Avignon, that *Madame Mère's* accouchement of Napoleon took place in a *salon*, on a carpet, on which was represented a scene in the "Iliad." She had been to church, where she was taken ill, and had only time to be brought back to her house, and placed in the first *salon* on the *rez-de-chaussée*, when she gave birth to a hero, destined to create as much wonder in modern days, as did any of those of Homer in ancient times. How far

this natal contact with imaged heroes may have influenced the future destiny of Napoleon, might serve as a curious subject for speculation to idealists; and persons are not wanting, who would maintain that it had a considerable one!—so prone are mankind to superstition. Great, however, as all must allow Napoleon to have been, not even his abilities could have raised him to the eminence he attained, had not circumstances, over which he had no control, rendered his ascent practicable. Colonel Sebastiani told me, that while her children were yet in infancy, Madame Letitia Bonaparte had been remarked for the dignity and self-possession of her manner, and conduct. With a large family and a small income, she practised a rigid system of economy, which never degenerated into meanness; and this prudence seemed in her to be much more the result of a laudable pride, and principle, than of avarice. In later years, when she saw her son not only a monarch himself, but the dictator of monarchs, with all Europe (England excepted) looking to him as the arbiter of her destiny, neither the palaces, nor the income of a million of francs which he assigned her, could blind her to the insecurity of his power, which she saw was based on sand, while all others considered it to be built on a rock. The economy urged by foresight, and practised by this sensible woman, when the necessity of such a measure was deemed out of the pale of possibility, has enabled her to support her station with decent dignity, and renders her old age exempt from all pecuniary cares.

With Napoleon's quick perception of the effect produced by his near relations on those around him, and with the *fiercé* which formed a characteristic of his nature, it was peculiarly fortunate that his mother's appearance was so calculated to assort with the rank to which she was elevated. Her tall and slender figure, her graceful demeanour, distinguished countenance, and cold, but polite manners, were well suited to the part she had to fill. It is recorded of her, that one day at the palace of the Tuileries, Napoleon, walking up and down in the *salle de réception*, was approached by different high personages, who had the *entrée*, and who came to kiss his hand; some of the members of the Imperial family were among the number, and *Madame Mère* entered when the courtly circle was reduced to only a few of these last. When she approached, Napoleon, with a gracious smile, offered her his hand, as he had previously done to his sisters and brothers, but she gently repulsed it; and holding out hers to be kissed, said in Italian, "You are the Emperor, the Sovereign of all the others," looking round, "but *you* are *my* son." Napoleon took her hand, and kissed it affectionately and respectfully; and probably never felt more satisfied with his mother than when she uttered this dignified rebuke. The eminence to which Napoleon was raised, might have dazzled a less strong mind, and have rendered giddy a less

steady head, than that of Madame Letitia ; but she was neither to be elated by prosperity, nor depressed by adversity. In Napoleon's most prosperous days, she has been heard to doubt the constancy of fortune ; and since he has fallen from a height that few but he could have attained, it is evident that she mourns the son of her affection, more than the Emperor of her pride ; the reverses of the latter she could have borne, but the exile and captivity of the former have bowed her to the earth. The Duc de Reichstadt is said to occupy much of her thoughts, which, since Napoleon's death, revert continually to this interesting youth. There is so much self-control in the manners of Letitia, that conclusions are drawn more from the expression of her countenance, significant shakes of the head, or deep sighs, than from her words. Though gracious and kind, she is neither demonstrative, nor communicative, and there is a natural dignity about her that must ever check the incursions of curiosity. She may well be called the Niobe of Mothers ; for if her offspring have not been physically destroyed before her eyes, they have been one by one hurled from the thrones where they had been seated. Exiled from the scenes of their greatness, and shorn of the splendour with which she had seen them surrounded, with nothing left them but the remembrance of past happiness, which renders the present change in their destinies more insupportable, Letitia finds in religion her only source of consolation. She sought the aid of this sure prop, when grandeur courted her ; and it has not failed her, when all else eluded her wounded heart.

Spent two hours yesterday with the ex-King and Queen of Westphalia, at present known as the *Prince* and *Princesse* de Montfort. Jérôme Bonaparte is sensible, well-informed, and well-bred, with a good-natured kindness of manner, that detracts not from the dignity acquired by having possessed sovereign power. The *Princesse* is a daughter of the King of Wirtemberg, consequently is nearly related to our royal family, to whom she bears a striking resemblance. The *Prince* de Montfort still retains the shadow of the regal station, of which he has lost the substance. An etiquette, bordering on that of royalty, is kept up in his palace. Visitors are conducted by a Chamberlain, to the presence of the ex-King and Queen, who give them an audience in the *grand salon de réception* attended by *une dame d'honneur et un gentilhomme de chambre*. We were received with great politeness ; and the constraint of ceremony was soon broken through, by their asking us various and pertinent questions relative to England, about which they seemed to experience much interest. Two remarkably fine children, a boy and girl, with the preceptor of one, and the governess of the other, were present ; and both parents seemed gratified by our admiration of them. The *Princesse* is of the middle stature,

rather disposed to *embonpoint* ; her complexion fresh, her hair brown, her features regular, and her countenance beaming with good humour and kindness. Her manners are dignified, mild, unaffected, and gracious; her conversation intelligent, and betraying, rather than displaying, a very cultivated mind. Without the *prestige* attached to her high birth, reverses, and admirable qualities, she must always excite a lively sentiment of respect and esteem from the heroic firmness with which she has adhered to her conjugal duties; and refused, when the fortunes of Napoleon had fallen, the most brilliant offers to forsake her husband, and return to the bosom of her family. If Jerome has lost a throne, he has found what thrones cannot give, a wife who is a model for her sex; and one, on whom the frowns of destiny have had no other effect, than to bring forth more prominently virtues which prove that, however she may have adorned a crown, she could not derive a purer lustre from it, than her many high qualities impart to her. The Prince de Montfort appears fully sensible of the value of the treasure he possesses in this truly admirable Princess; and is a most affectionate and devoted husband, and father.

The palace in which the Prince and Princess de Montfort reside is a very large one, containing a fine suite of apartments, richly and tastefully furnished. Two rooms are appropriated to memorials of the Emperor Napoleon; one is hung with engravings of all his battles, in which he of course is the conspicuous object; and the other contains prints from all the portraits painted of him, from his first step on the ladder of glory to the pinnacle: underneath which are a second series of prints from pictures painted since his reverses, concluding with one representing the last scene of the drama of his eventful life, his death-bed, and tomb at St. Helena. Three of the hats worn in battle, and sundry pairs of gloves used on the same occasions, are placed in glass cases beneath the engravings of the actions where they were worn. Here, surrounded by all the memorials of his greatness, closed by that of his humble tomb in exile, there was ample food for reflection; and no more striking example of the instability of human grandeur, and the nothingness of ambition, could be given. The next room contained a series of portraits in oil, by the best French artists, of the emperor Napoleon in his imperial and military costume; and the resemblance between him and the Prince de Montfort, struck me as being very remarkable. There was a warm sentiment of fraternal affection in thus dedicating these apartments to the memory of the Emperor, that showed how fondly his memory is cherished, and kept apart from the every day business of life by his family; and in viewing these memorials of him, strong evidences of the feeling were visible in his brother. A large gallery was filled with full length portraits of the Prince and Princess de

Montfort, painted when they sat on the throne of Westphalia, with various other pictures, representing them at different periods of their regal career, surrounded by portraits of all the individuals of the imperial family. The portrait of the Princess Pauline Borghese, which is considered a perfect resemblance, is exquisitely beautiful; and the Princess de Montfort observed, when we commented on its extraordinary loveliness, that it was less beautiful than the original. The *boudoir*, *chambre de toilette*, and *chambre à coucher*, of the Princess, are richly furnished. The hangings are of satin, and all the articles in the rooms, either useful or ornamental, are of the rarest and most magnificent description, being those used in her days of sovereignty. But amid all this splendour, indications of the domestic habits, and simple but refined tastes of the Princess are every where visible: Her writing-table, with its *tiroir* open, showed that she had been making extracts from a favourite author placed by it: a recess, well filled with a select collection of books, and portraits of her children and family were hung around. In an *armoire* with glass doors, were placed the various gifts presented to her on birth and fête days, forming a very valuable and unique collection. The Prince de Montfort showed us a large case filled with arms of the most costly description, the greater number of which had belonged to the Emperor Napoleon. The handles of many of them are set with precious stones of great value. The Princess expressed a strong desire to visit England, but added, and she sighed while making the reflection, "I am too nearly related to the royal family of England to go there, situated as we are, without feeling myself placed in a painful position. My children may perhaps visit it under more propitious circumstances!"

Few women were ever more beloved and esteemed, and few certainly ever more merited to be so, than the Princess de Montfort. What a contrast does her conduct present to that of the Empress Marie Louise! The reverses of Jerome have only served to render her still more devoted to him, and she has found her reward in the happiness of her domestic life; idolized by her grateful husband, and venerated by all around her. The unpretending amiability and kindness of this Princess, uncomplainingly conforming to the circumstances in which the vicissitudes of life have placed her, argue much, not only for the superiority of her head and heart, but for the family whence she has sprung, and the education she has received. Wherever she is known, her virtues shed a lustre on the house of Wirtemberg, and the strangers who visit Rome from every country, unite in offering homage to her character.

I met *La Contessa* Guiccioli last night at the *Duchesse de St. Leu's*. I had previously been introduced to her at a *fête* given

by the *Duc de Laval-Montmorenci*, and at other places. She is much admired, and liked, and merits to be so, for her appearance is highly prepossessing, her manners remarkably distinguished, and her conversation *spirituelle* and interesting. Her face is decidedly handsome, the features regular and well proportioned, her complexion delicately fair, her teeth very fine, and her hair of that rich golden tint, which is peculiar to the female pictures by Titian and Giorgioni. Her countenance is very pleasing, its general character is pensive, but it can be lit up with animation and gaiety, when its expression is very agreeable. Her bust and arms are exquisitely beautiful, and her whole appearance reminds one very strikingly of the best portraits in the Venetian school. *La Contessa Guiccioli* is well educated and highly accomplished, she speaks her native language with remarkable purity, French with great fluency, and understands English perfectly. Her reading has been extensive, her memory is retentive, and her imagination has been elevated by the study of the best poets of her own country and ours. With so many qualifications for society, it is not to be wondered at, that her presence is much sought, and that those who know her, feel a lively interest in her favour.

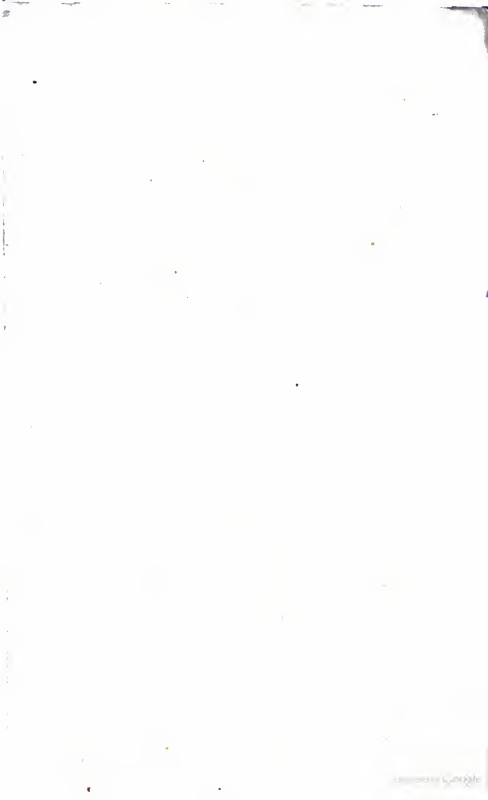
To-morrow we leave the Eternal City—perhaps to see it *no more*. This presentiment filled me with sadness when I this evening from the Monte Pincio saw the golden sun sink beneath his purple clouds, his last beams tinged with a brilliant radiance the Angel on the fortress of St. Angelo, and the glorious dome of St. Peter's. How many evenings have I watched from that spot this beautiful sight, and wondered why others felt not the same delight in viewing it! And now, sun after sun will sink, but I shall be far away from the scene whence I so loved to witness its departing glory. I have taken leave of all my favourite haunts, the Coliseum, St. Peter's, and the Pantheon, as if they were dear friends, instead of inanimate objects, and never will they be viewed by eyes more partial to them than mine.

We dine at the Vigna Palatina, where our kind friend Mr. Mills has assembled those of our Roman friends most dear to us, with our good Gell, and Mr. and Mrs. Dodwell. I shall pass with them the first melancholy hours I ever knew in their society. Yes, parting is a sad ceremony!

THE END.

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